Hafa Adai!

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'NMI Medicaid in freefall'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

CNMI healthcare officials pleaded with lawmakers for help in the Medicaid cliff facing the islands when they testified in the nation's capital last week.

» CHCC, CNMI Medicaid testify on Medicaid 'cliff' talks

Helen Sablan, CNMI Medicaid Program director, said in her testimony to a U.S. Congress committee that the CNMI is in a "desperate and dire situation."

"…We are humbly pleading for the U.S. Congress to please help treat the U.S. citizens of the U.S.

See MEDICAID on Page 4

The Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort that has been closed indefinitely since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu last October has started the first stage of renovation—demolition. There is still no set date for when the resort will resume operations or when construction will begin.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

COP renovation begins

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some seven months after Super Typhoon Yutu wreaked havoc on Saipan, the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort has finally started the process of renovation, which involves tearing down the damaged parts.

In an interview with Gloria Cavanagh, who leads the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands as chairwoman, she said that demolition has already started at COP.

Because damage to some areas of the resort were so severe, they have to demolish many of the structures and build them from the ground up, she explained. However, areas like the lobby will not be demolished and will be brought back to its state prior to Yutu.

See COP on Page 4

Loss of more workers looms

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Despite being already in the throes of a labor shortage in the construction trades, the CNMI is expected to lose even more workers—over a thousand—if no solution is found to keep them legally on island.

A bill that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced in U.S. Congress to resolve the situation, H.R. 559, remains pending with the Subcommittee on Immigration

See LOSS on Page 4

Still unmanaged

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC was supposed to start operating the entire Mariana Resort & Spa by mid-May but, as the month draws to a close, that hasn't happened yet.

At the end of the Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting last week, IPI chief executive officer Mark Brown confers with casino commission lawyer Mike Ernest as IPI general counsel Phillip J. Tydingco looks on.

BEA CABRERA

The company blames the many hoops it is being made to jump through to get the process done.

"It seems like we take one step forward and then we have to take three steps backwards," IPI chief executive officer Mark Brown told *Saipan Tribune*.

Last month, the company got the notice from the Department of Public Lands to allow the casino operator to manage and operate the resort. IPI's planned takeover was supposed to

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INSIDE

LOCAL
A visual arts company has premiered a short film to raise awareness about PTSD.
PAGE 6

ASIA
A man stabbed schoolgirls in Tokyo, wounding 16 people and leaving three dead.
PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Rihanna may have looked collected last weekend but on the inside it was a different story.
PAGE 19

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Local

‘Driver’s license policies are similar for all applicants’

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Whether it’s for the renewal of one’s driver’s license or brand new, all CNMI-issued driver’s licenses are valid for three years, according to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Josalyn Cabrera, Bureau of Motor Vehicles driver license technician, clarified this in response to rumors about differing license policies for U.S. citizens and CW-1 holders or foreign workers.

She said the rumor is not true and that the BMV policy is the same for everyone.

“The policy is the same. Your driver’s license will still expire in three years on your birthday,” she said.

However, the requirement to renew or apply for a local driver’s license differs for CW-1 holders or foreign workers.

Foreign workers would need to provide their passport, a copy of their visa, if the visa is near expiration, a notice stating their visa is to be renewed or is approved for renewal, and the expired driver’s license.

“What we need from you is your previous CW or if you have something that states that you have a CW-1 and you have the receipt that you’ve sent a [renewal] out, that means you’re good to go to renew your license again,” she said.

The fee for a new license or renewal are the same for both U.S. citizens and foreign workers.

The renewal or brand-new license fee is $50. A penalty of $20 is implemented after 30 days of expiration.

According to Cabrera, the bureau has recently shifted to the Real ID System and is now issuing Real IDs.

Cabrera said that since the bureau has only started implementing this system early this month, it is still non-compliant, or in its test-run phase, so requirements, policies, and fees could change once the system is compliant.

There is still no set date as to when the system will be considered compliant.

These IDs, according to a previous interview with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, would be able to access all the records of the cardholder, including medical records and criminal records.

For now, Cabrera said, the bureau is still keeping the three-year license validity for all CNMI-issued license.

38 graduate from RHI high school; 34 promoted to middle school

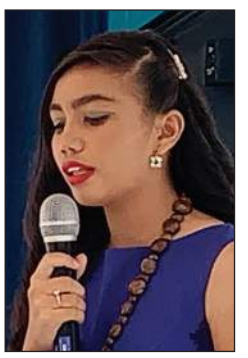
By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School kicked off the Public School System’s slew of graduations for school year 2018-2019, with 38 students in high school graduating and 39 students in middle school being promoted last May 24 at their school campus.

RHI high school valedictorian Mariette Elena O. Barcinas wishes to become a high school counselor and travel the world, while high school salutatorian Rency Azil A. Camacho wishes to pursue an accounting degree.

MARIETTE ELENA O. BARCINAS
Valedictorian, High School

RENCY AZIL A. CAMACHO
Salutatorian, High School



GLENDA C. VALDEZCO
Valedictorian, Middle School

JERMAIN B. YALUNG
Salutatorian, Middle School

In her valedictory address, Barcinas thanked her family, friends, and teachers—including RHI administrators—for molding her into who she is today.

Both thanked their parents for their sacrifices and support.

The RHI Class of 2019 also recognized Adira M. Reyes as third honor; Jeri M. Costales as fourth honor; Francisco M. Santos Jr. as fifth honor; Asiana C. Manglona as sixth honor; Antonio C. Atalig III as seventh honor; Xanthus H. Manglona as eighth honor; Sheina P. Rangamar as ninth honor; and Allen A. Maratita as 10th honor.

The Governor’s Leadership Award was given to Daniel Depalog and the Outstanding Female Graduate Award and Mayor’s Award was given to Barcinas, while Adina M. Reyes received the Principal’s Award.

In the middle school promotion, Glenda C. Valdezco was named valedictorian, while Jermain B. Yalung was named salutatorian.

In her valedictorian speech, Valdezco thanked her mother.

“Even though there are times where we don’t see eye to eye, you still supported and loved me unconditionally. …I love you and always remember [that], at the end of the day, I’m the prettier one,” she said.

Yalung quoted Adarsh Singh in her speech: “While people on the first bench made notes, the people on the last bench made memories.”

“I too was a last bencher. Having fun, making memories, and living as a kid at the back of the class. I enjoyed every moment of it and will carry those memories beyond high school but I soon realized that that is not who I am,” she said.

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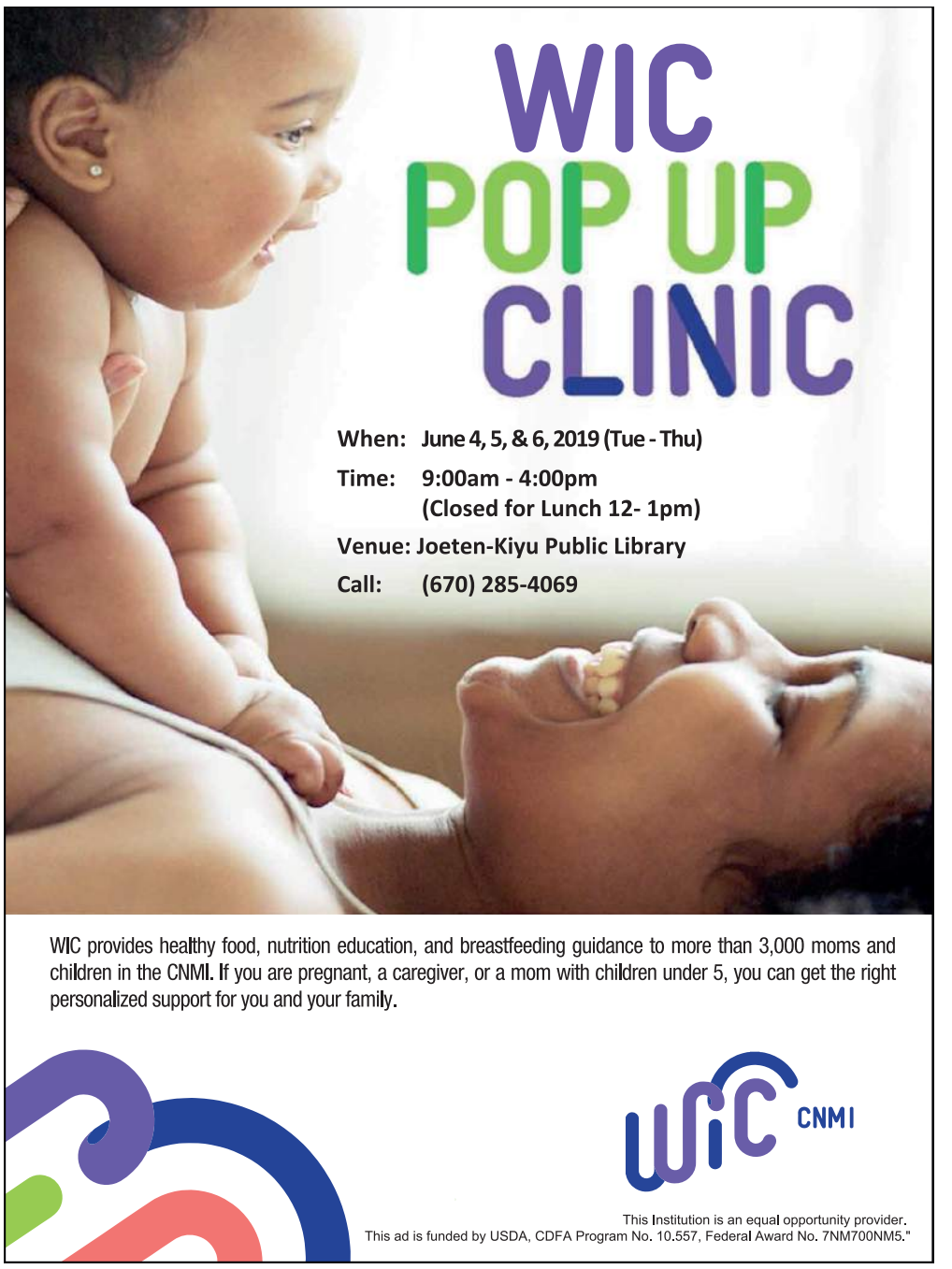
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CUC hastens work on first phase of underground power

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is moving fast on the initial phase of its planned $30-million underground power systems on Saipan and Tinian. That means getting the project designs up and ready so that CUC could start soliciting bids for the project.

Speaking during Friday's CUC board meeting, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said that, on Saipan, they are working quickly on the design for the underground cable from Power Plant 1 in Lower Base to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Camacho

CUC is doing the same thing for Tinian, relating to burying a power cable from the power plant to the Tinian Health Center, Camacho said.

"We need to get that design ready and we're trying to fulfill that very, very quickly so we can hopefully…get that ready for bid," he said.

He said they are aggressively pushing the underground power system project to ensure that Saipan and Tinian will have the capability for emergencies during typhoons.

Right now, CUC's priority for the underground system is going to be the hospitals on the two islands, Camacho said. That means both facilities will continue to have power even during a destructive storm.

The underground power system is part of the mitigation project in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the CNMI last October.

Camacho earlier disclosed that his office, with the assistance of the CUC Power Transmission and Distribution Division, prepared the $30-million plan for the underground power system as part of its efforts to make the system resilient.

Camacho said they had already submitted the plan for consideration to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

On Saipan, the proposed underground network would primarily benefit the hospital, the airport, and Garapan. On Tinian, the underground system would protect the hospital and airport.

CUC wants FEMA to fund both projects.

Meanwhile, Camacho said that, in addition to the ongoing restoration effort for the power system, they have identified 2,123 damaged poles that need to be replaced.

"This is on top of what has already been done," he said, adding that he had a meeting with FEMA in which they talked about the additional assessments that were performed on Saipan and Tinian.

Camacho said CUC reaffirmed the need to replace these damaged poles during those two different assessments.

As of May 20, 2019, Saipan was deemed to have 3,192 damaged poles, 1,225 damaged transformers, and over 1.7 million damaged conductors.

On Tinian, CUC counted 1,070 damaged poles, 181 damaged transformers, and 678,782 damaged conductors.

In his recent talk with the governor's authorized representative, Virginia Villagomez, Camacho said he was informed that there is no FEMA reimbursement scheduled just yet.

"She has not seen anything," he said.

Camacho said CUC is in dire need of $8 million in reimbursement.

He said a lot of CUC revenues had been moved to the restoration funds, as they had expected the FEMA reimbursement would be fast and consistent.

"However, we have not seen that as quickly as we are hoping," he said. "Our cash flow is challenging right now."

NEW BUILD-EXITO COHORT
Cohort 4 of the Northern Marianas College's Build EXITO Program meets with NMC's newest cohort to share knowledge and advice based on their experience during the preliminary research training at Portland State University. This undergraduate research training program funded by the National Institute of Health is geared toward training students/scholars who are interested in conducting scientific research in biomedical, bioengineering, behavioral, clinical, health, and social topics. NMC

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Camacho projects focus on road safety

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan) continues to focus on improving traffic visibility and other safety features from Tanapag to As Matuis in the northern part of Saipan.

His office, with the help of volunteers, recently painted murals—the last just across Kensington Hotel Saipan—on the concrete barriers along the highway in Precinct 4.

Volunteers also painted and pressure-washed sidewalks and curves, the guard railings along the road going up north, and the island medians.

Camacho said they plan to put up reflectors along the road from Tanapag all the way up north of Marpi. "We're going to put reflectors on concrete poles and island medians, and paint the trees and the island medians."

All these are intended to improve visibility at night. "During the day, it will be beautiful by seeing all the artwork that we've done," he said.

They have also completed the tree visibility project by painting the trees on the island medians along the road. The project was done in cooperation with the Saipan Mayor's Office. "I thank the mayor for allowing my office to paint the trees. Not only does it add beauty to our precinct, [but] it also provides the needed visibility at night for the safety of our motorists."

The Department of Public Works also joined in. "DPW sent some of its staff to help paint the sidewalk curbs and guard railings. …It is also an added road safety feature."

He advises people who want to take selfies with the murals as background to park in a safe area and walk toward them.

Camacho, together with his staff—Gregorio John Camacho, Ramon Sablan, and Rita C. Cabrera—are also looking into a project that will promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

"I wanted to take a more proactive approach on [non-communicable diseases]. That's one of the ideas behind this [mural] project. That's the deeper meaning behind all of this. I want people to exercise more and be motivated to go out.

"You're going to walk and admire the artwork that we've done while, at the same time, get your needed exercise. I want our people to start doing that in order to start reducing NCD's. It is about being…proactive."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS PTSA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School's PTSA and senior meeting will take place today, May 29, starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Public hearing on mandatory fishery data reporting regs

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife is inviting all fishermen, boat owners, restaurant operators, tour operators and all agencies engaged in commercial fishing on Saipan and the Northern Islands that there will be a public hearing on the proposed mandatory data reporting regulations under Pubic Law 17-98, today, May 29, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Contact DLNR or DFW for inquiries or to get a copy of the draft regulations at 322-9834 or 664-6000. ***(PR)***

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INSTALLMENT AVAILABLE

‘Reimbursements will guarantee LOC’

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

If ever the Marianas Public Land Trust board extends a line of credit to the government, reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency would be used to guarantee the loan, according to Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Atalig, who is currently in Washington, D.C. to meet with some federal officials, gave this assurance via a video call during an MPLT board meeting last night.

When asked by MPLT legal counsel Robert Torres how the government intends to pay the LOC, Atalig pledged the first $7.5 million of FEMA reimbursements to MPLT on whatever amount the board agrees to give the CNMI government.

The LOC will be done with the authorization of the Legislature, with House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) introducing House Bill 21-44 that pledges as security the interest income distributions from MPLT.

“The Legislature—should it pass the law allowing me to go into negotiations with the debt service with MPLT—the Finance Department, Governor’s Office, and MPLT will come up with the documentation to ensure the repayment to MPLT,” said Atalig.

He assured MPLT that the LOC will be the administration’s top priority when asked if paying the possible loan would be a top priority. “That’s the reason why I’m out here. I’m pledging that when we get reimbursements, we will pay back what we drawdown on.”

Atalig said this was his first time to work on FEMA reimbursements. “At the rate that FEMA is going in and [based on] my communication with my counterpart in the U.S. Virgin Islands on their reimbursement pattern with FEMA, it took a couple of years to get their reimbursements.”

The U.S. Virgin Islands were hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, both Category 5 storms, in a span of two weeks on Sept. 6 and Sept. 20 in 2017. Their damage totaled over $4 billion.

“However, in their case, they had more outlay than we did. Like I said, I don’t have any experience working with FEMA reimbursements. But I will make sure that in any future disasters that might happen, we will have all documentation to ensure quicker reimbursements.”

Another business affirms alleged scam

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Another photography business owner is alleging that Roy Jacinto and Ivan Lanuza used his business to swindle customers.

Steve Jang, owner of Saipan Photo and previous owner of Rainbow Colors, filed a police report against Jacinto and Lanuza yesterday for staging a project contract using his business name despite not being affiliated with them.

In an interview with Jang yesterday, he said he was contacted by one of the alleged victims, Maria Camacho, about a contract she had with Saipan Photos regarding a wedding shoot.

Jang said he knew right away that the contract was fake because Jacinto and Lanuza were not his employees and the logo used in the contract was not his because his company does not have a logo.

“They were sitting right here in my café. This was a premeditated crime and that’s what makes me very upset,” he said.

Jang said that he was planning to hire Jacinto and Lanuza despite learning that they were terminated from Island Image and Motion CNMI. Jang said he was just waiting for them to show him their CW-1 that they said were valid, under an agency they worked for, but they never did.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LOSS

From Page 1

and Citizenship.

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, the Torres administration has done its part in lobbying the U.S. government to reverse the decision of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to stop the categorical parole program.

“The administration has pleaded with federal partners since October last year before the first deadline last December,” he said when sought for comments.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres even appealed the USCIS decision last October to former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and also asked Sablan to work on a legislative fix in the U.S. Congress.

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, there are 1,038 individuals who will lose their categorical parole status and employment authorization documents after the June 29 deadline.

USCIS discontinued the program in December last year. Besides foreign workers, the decision also affects immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of Freely Associated States citizens (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and caregivers of CNMI residents.

USCIS gave them a 180-day window to either get another legal status to continue working in the CNMI or be forced to leave by June 29. Their status remains in limbo.

Foreign worker advocate Itos Feliciano has called for several meetings with his fellow categorical parolees. The group is reportedly planning to file a class action lawsuit.

Feliciano had sought the assistance and counsel of Samuel Mok, and declined to give further information as per advice of his lawyer.

COP

From Page 1

“We are going bring it back to where it was originally, It was newly renovated in 2011 and it was still pretty new and it was gorgeous, especially the lobby area, so we’re planning to bring it back to that,” said Cavanagh, who is the general manager of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, a sister-hotel of Coral Ocean Point.

After the renovations, Cavanagh said that Coral Ocean Point will still be seeing the 200 additional rooms that were in the works before Yutu hit.

“We have to look at doing the other 200 rooms. We were at the point where it was already in the planning stages but, after the storm, we had to work on putting everything back in order first,” she said.

Cavanagh said the only challenge now is finding the manpower to carry out the construction as the number of construction workers on island continue to decline due to work permit issues.

“Of course, like everyone else, there’s going to be an issue as far as bringing in the construction workers. … We have gone to other countries…to bring in H-2Bs from there. We’ll see how it goes and there’s also some workers from the construction companies here that we’re tapping. But for now, we’re focused on demolition,” she said.

Cavanagh said there is no timeline yet as to when the Coral Ocean Point will be up and running, at least partially.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Coral Ocean Point, operated by the E-Land Group of Companies, was one of the resorts on island that bore the brunt of Super Typhoon Yutu.

It was forced to close down immediately following Yutu because of the extensive damage it sustained.

Matthew Park, chief executive officer of the Saipan chain of the E-Land Group, explained in a previous interview that the Coral Ocean Point was in complete ruins.

STILL

From Page 1

happen by the middle of May and IPI now feels stuck in the middle of many processes that have resulted in the delay.

Brown said they announced at the Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting last April that they have already received the notice from DPL that IPI is getting the management agreement to operate Mariana Resort and that they have been working out the finances since then.

“But now other questions have been raised,” he added.

According to Brown, the Office of the Attorney General is seeking additional information relating to the grant of the management agreement from DPL.

“That is what we are doing now, gathering more information so we can move forward with that,” he said

The goal in the end is to get the Mariana Resort land “because we cannot plan properly without the lands,” he said. “We are trying to get lands to tie together with our Garapan construction and on to the other phases.

“That is the frustration and difficulties that our company has to go through.

“When the [casino] commission asks us about our work plans, we answer respectfully that we want to move forward but it is very difficult to have a plan when we don’t know where that next building is going to be built,” he added.

The development of the Marpi area is referred to as Phase II in the casino management agreement, which IPI is a privy to as the exclusive casino license holder on Saipan.

Brown said he is aware that the island needs money and, in the event the management agreement pushes through, the income from the rent of the property will be of help. “DPL doesn’t have the money to take care of the land,” he said.

He pointed out that, under the management agreement, IPI is going to pay for the property at a higher rate that what the original owner used to pay. Brown said that IPI will pay 10 times more for the property per year. “We will take care of the property so we are still figuring out why it is taking long,” he added.

Mariana Resort and Spa used to be run by Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd.

The management agreement that is supposedly set for one year is not a lease agreement and, despite the waiting game, Brown said that they are looking forward to fulfilling the phases and plans of the company.

“[Secretary] Marianne Teregeyo of DPL is doing her job as she is trying to push forward, the governor and lieutenant governor are trying to help but this is really all about getting all of them to agree, including the attorney general,” he said. “Our goal is to get the land…”

“Two years have gone by and we are still waiting,” he added.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

Commonwealth of the NMI equitably, and if I may humbly ask, quickly,” she said in her testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Natural Resources Committee last May 24.

Federal funding for Medicaid that was a cornerstone of Obamacare will expire at the end of the year, resulting in a “Medicaid cliff,” which could result in nearly one million U.S. citizens—and thousands of CNMI residents—losing their health care coverage.

“…The CNMI Medicaid Program has fallen off the cliff and is currently in freefall,” Sablan said, describing the situation of the CNMI.

Sablan, along with Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, spoke for improved Medicaid services in insular areas at the invitation of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Both Muña and Sablan joined Guam’s, American Samoa’s, Puerto Rico’s, and the U.S. Virgin Islands’ health care representatives to testify.

In her testimony, Helen Sablan noted that there are 15,316 U.S. citizens in the CNMI who are enrolled in both the Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Program—61 percent of the total population of the CNMI.

“Medicaid and CHIP provides critical healthcare services for about 46 percent of the total U.S. citizens in the CNMI today,” she said.

As it currently stands, Helen Sablan said, the estimated shortfall for the CNMI Medicaid Program in fiscal year 2019 is around $42 million. Yet the Congress-approved H.R. 2157 only estimates the shortfall at $36 million—a $6-million difference.

“This will result in another carry-over of accounts payables,” Helen Sablan said.

In reaction to the seemingly inevitable shortfall, she said that the CNMI Medicaid is already in the process of “severely curtailing services, limiting choice of providers in the program, and are making decisions knowing full well the adverse short and long-term effects consequences”.

“It is very hard to explain to those that come to our office asking whether the health services that they are receiving will be cut. It is very hard to listen to their stories,” she said.

‘Scaled back services’

In her own testimony, Muña explained that, without the continued support of the Medicaid program, the lone hospital in the CNMI would not have the means to continue its “positive trajectory,” forcing it to consider even scaling back its services.

She cited several accomplishments at the hospital, thanks to continued Medicaid funding.

“We took full advantage of the opportunity presented to us [by the Affordable Care Act] to stabilize our health care system. ...A return to the low statutory cap on federal contributions and the low fixed federal share endangers the very existence of our health care system, threatens to further erode our economy, and puts at risk the health and well-being of our people,” she said.

Muña said she is eager to demonstrate the potential of CHC when provided with regular reimbursements from a stable Medicaid program and asked Congress to eliminate the caps on federal assistance to CNMI Medicaid.

Currently, the CHCC could get through until September 2019 only through the passage of H.R. 2157 after it passed the U.S. Senate.

H.R. 2157 provides an additional $36 million to the CNMI Medicaid program for fiscal year 2019.

“This will help the CNMI get through September this year, but after that we will still need further congressional action or adequate local appropriation to enable the Medicaid program to make reimbursements to medical providers,” Muña said.

The CNMI Medicaid Program announced in early May that it has exhausted its federal and local funding and would only reimburse outpatient primary care provided only at CHCC.

Govt, DOC officials agree to pay $500 to settle inmate's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government and some former and current Department of Corrections officials have agreed to settle an inmate's lawsuit by paying him $500 in court costs and amending DOC's regulations on disciplinary sanctions and administrative segregation, among other terms.

A copy of the settlement agreement in Jerry Ray's lawsuit, which was filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Thursday, was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The defendants in the lawsuit all deny liability for the actions complained of in Ray's complaint.

The remaining defendants in this case are the CNMI government, former DOC commissioner Vincent S. Attao, DOC director Gregory Castro, and classification officer Cynthia B. Santos.

The co-defendants dismissed from the lawsuit are former acting DOC commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, pre-trial operations captain Pius P. Yaroitemal, and operation commander David Deleon Guerrero. Cabrera is still a DOC official.

Chief among the terms of the settlement is that DOC shall not impose on Ray solitary confinement, isolation, or administrative segregation and/or loss of privileges and that DOC shall provide him with mental health treatment, care, or counseling.

DOC shall follow the psychiatrist's recommendations regarding Ray's treatment and care.

At the same time, DOC agrees to amend its regulations governing solitary confinement, isolation, or administrative segregation, with input from the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Until then, DOC shall not impose any sanctions or administrative segregation resulting in more than 15 days of consecutive solitary confinement, isolation, or administrative segregation.

Periods of administrative segregation longer than 15 days shall be made only to maintain inmate and DOC staff safety, with the consultation of a DOC or Commonwealth Health Center's medical professional.

DOC shall not impose restraints on Ray as a sanction or in any punitive fashion. Restraints are allowable as measures for inmate and staff safety.

DOC shall not deny Ray the privilege of telephone calls and visitation with his family members for more than 15 days in succession.

DOC shall provide Ray with outside work assignments, indoor and outdoor recreational activity, and at least one hour of "fresh air" daily.

In his lawsuit, Ray demanded to be paid $100 a day, for a total of $65,000, for the period he was allegedly subjected to solitary confinement and provided with inadequate mental health treatment at DOC.

Ex-IPI employee amends lawsuit to includes race discrimination claim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former employee of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has amended his lawsuit against IPI in federal court by adding a race discrimination claim and adding more details.

In an amended complaint filed last Sunday, Joshua Gray is suing IPI for wrongful termination in violation of public policy (immigration violations), race discrimination, wrongful failure to hire, and infliction of emotional distress.

In the original complaint, Gray sued IPI with the same claims except for race discrimination. The original complaint also has two counts of wrongful failure to hire.

IPI has denied the allegations.

Gray, through William F. Fitzgerald, is seeking unspecified damages.

Among the additional details in the amended complaint is that Gray was allegedly informed in March and April 2018 that his job responsibilities would be changed to assist with a "floating hotel," an IPI project that never materialized.

Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald said that Gray had complained to IPI's legal counsel that this assignment is a demotion. IPI's counsel allegedly ignored that complaint.

Fitzgerald said that in November 2018, Gray was told by IPI's human resource department that his name was on a list of people to be fired.

In January 2019, a senior IPI executive allegedly told Gray that he had been instructed to fire him, but the senior executive refused to do so, saying he was the only one in the company qualified to run hotel operations for IPI.

Fitzgerald said the IPI owner allegedly told this senior executive that he wanted Gray fired and that a Chinese woman, Lucy Guo, a non-U.S. citizen, would handle, the hotel operations.

Fitzgerald said this senior executive explained to the IPI owner that the company could not legally fire a U.S. citizen and give the same responsibilities to a non-U.S. citizen. The IPI owner allegedly ignored the advice and insisted that Brown be terminated, which eventually happened on Jan. 24, 2019.

The termination, Fitzgerald said, was clearly in retaliation.

As for the discrimination claim, Fitzgerald said that Gray, an African American U.S. citizen, was denied substantial compensation and benefits.

In late 2017, Gray allegedly complained to IPI that the company was violating immigration law and CNMI public policy by failing to hire qualified U.S. and local applicants.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

RFQ19-GOV-088

Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect and Engineering Services for Planning and Technical Assistance to Assess, Identify and Develop Mitigation Opportunities (Hazard Mitigation Sections 406 and 404) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Governor's Authorized Representative, (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide A&E Services for Planning and Technical Assistance to Assess, Identify and Develop Mitigation Opportunities (Hazard Mitigation Sections 404 and 406) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Selected architects and engineers will be retained as independent contractors under the general provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Architects and engineers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected architects and engineers will be retained on a two year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth.

Compensation for A&E Services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects and/or task orders including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected individuals or firms to determine the scope of work and responsibilities.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements at the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or request electronic mail (attn.: Leona DLG. Sablan leona.cip@gmail.com) beginning May 24, 2019, during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the scope of work and submittal requirements.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on June 7, 2019 10:30 a.m. at the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions about this project shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., in writing via email: esb.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 by June 11, 2019.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable. Fee estimates will assist the Office of the Governor for budgeting purposes, but will not be considered in the firm evaluation scores.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification (Personnel, Education and Professional Licenses)	30 points
2. Experiences (similar projects)	30 points
3. Project approach to the types of projects	20 points
4. Workload and resources	20 points

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked RFQ19-GOV-088 Provisions of A&E Services for Planning and Technical Assistance to Assess, Identify and Develop Mitigation Opportunities (Hazard Mitigation Sections 406 and 404) for the CNMI. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statements must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m., June 18, 2019. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on June 18, 2019 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cmnidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statements must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 18, 2019, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply by June 27, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
SAMB/Governor's Authorized Representative

Joaquin S. Reyes
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-014

PALU LANE ROAD IMPROVEMENT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Palu Road Improvement**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 22, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **June 7, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 14, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-014"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time June 21, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 21, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 21, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **July 2, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, July 5, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on July 2, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

JACK S. REYES
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

New film highlights veterans suffering from PTSD

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

In honor of Memorial Day, a local visual arts company premiered a short film to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues that plague many veterans.

The film, *Remember Me,* was created by D&R Visuals using the combined creative imaginations of Denton Pangelinan and Rita Indalecio. Besides PTSD, their film also raises awareness about its related symptoms of anxiety, depression, and suicide.

The film, which was shown Monday at Regal Saipan Megaplex, relates the tale of two friends who came back home after being deployed for many years and both face the challenges of PTSD. The friends are portrayed in the film by Derek Cutting and Pangelinan himself.

Pangelinan was also the producer, video editor, and sound designer. Indalecio, along with Carlo Domingo, were the directors and video editors of the film.

Pangelinan said the film stresses the importance of seeking help when people are challenged by mental health disorders. "People are so scared [to get help] because there is stigma, where people are teased or [bullied] for trying to get mental help. In all honesty, finding help is what everyone needs. That is why we wanted to portray how important it is to talk to someone if you're going through something."

Pangelinan pointed out that veterans who witness traumatic events often endure mental health issues when they go back to civilian life. In fact, independent numbers have shown that 22 veterans commit suicide each day. The filmmakers were so affected by this that the money that they raised from the film's premiere will be donated to Mission 22, a non-profit organization that combats veteran suicide.

The creators of *Remember Me*. From left, Denton Pangelinan, Rita Indalecio, and Carlo Domingo.
REICA RAMIREZ

ACS 2019 summary includes 7 academic achievements

Agape Christian School's summary of achievements for school year 2018-2019 includes a total of seven academic achievements for both current students and their alumni.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, ACS pastor Jimeian Pang noted that the school on Middle Road placed first in the fourth-grade division in the CNMI state Math Court competition through Jessie D. Campbell, while Zongyao Huang placed third in the same division.

Campbell also placed second in the Guam Regional Spelling Bee representing the school.

Joel Du placed first in the CNMI Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Fair in the international category; Angeline Quan placed first in the Reader's Forum at the PGFC Regional Competition; Miriam Zhao, Class of 2015 alumna, was accepted into the John Hopkins Medical College and Yale Medical College with a $10,000 scholarship; and Gerald Wang, Class of 2017 alumnus, got into the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Pang further recognized Owen Ou, a Class of 2016 alumnus, for getting into the West Point Academy and Lucy Gu, a Class of 2018 alumna, for getting into the Tsinghua University in Beijing, China on full scholarship.

Tsinghua University is informally dubbed as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology of China and is cited as the most reputable Chinese university by the 2017 Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings, coming in at 14th globally.

In athletics, ACS students bagged the 18-under boys champion in the All-Island Cross Country, as well as championed the 15-under boys and girls and 13-under boys and girls divisions.

ACS' accomplishments in sports this year include bagging second place in the co-ed middle school division for volleyball at the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League, or CCOPSA. Their high school boys team placed third in their division at the same league.

ACS' middle school boys team are champions in their division for the CCOPSA while their middle school girls team placed second and their high school boys team placed second in their respective divisions. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

McDonald's donates $5K to NMTI Gala

McDonald's Saipan will again be a diamond sponsor of this year's NMTI Gala.

With a $5,000 donation to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute staff, the Ayuyu family has renewed McDonald's longstanding commitment to trades enhancement in the CNMI.

This marks the fourth year that McDonald's has donated to the NMTI Gala, a dinner fundraiser, marking $18,000 in cash donations over a span of four years, said Frank M. Rabauliman, who is the institute's acting chief executive officer right now.

"We consider NMTI an integral part of the CNMI's workforce development strategy," said Joe E. Ayuyu, Jr., area supervisor of McDonald's Saipan. "Since McDonald's is a community stakeholder, we would like to assist any way we can with pressing issues related to curbing our current workforce shortage."

From left, Louiellen Allejo, McDonald's staff; Rosalyn Janairo, McDonald's staff; Brian Torres, Northern Marianas Trades Institute instructor; Mae Guerrero, NMTI admissions officer; Norisa Camacho, NMTI job placement coordinator; Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's Saipan, area supervisor; Christian Atalig, NMTI Construction Trades coordinator; and Frank Rabauliman, acting chief executive officer, NMTI.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rabauliman said that NMTI is "very blessed" to have educational sponsors that continue to work with them.

"Trades education continues to be challenging as it requires instructors that are skillful in teaching their respective professions. I firmly believe that our community is beginning to see the need for NMTI, thus the strong support from philanthropists like the Ayuyu family," he said.

The proceeds from this year's NMTI Gala will once again be used to buy equipment and student tools in the construction trades areas, which will give students greater hands-on experience before they move on to their various careers.

Gala tickets are priced at $100 per person and can be bought by calling Ross Manglona at (670) 322-6684 ross.nmticnmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Guam base to host Exercise Typhoon Pakyo

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas, U.S. Naval Base Guam, and Andersen Air Force Base will hold Exercise Typhoon Pakyo from May 29 to June 6.

The annual exercise is designed to enhance readiness of military and local agencies to prepare for heavy weather conditions in the region. Commanding officers and participating agencies will train command, control and communications capabilities, readiness preparation, personnel accountability, disaster preparedness and recovery.

"Exercise Typhoon Pakyo allows us to work with our local and federal partners to improve our communication, preparedness and response when it comes to these natural disasters," said Joint Region Marianas chief of staff Capt. Hans Sholley. "Guam and the Mariana Islands are right in the middle of typhoon alley, which makes us susceptible to storms yearround and [Exercise] Pakyo is just one way we can better train and prepare our people."

Pakyo is a Chamorro term for "typhoon."

During the training, the U.S. Naval Base Guam emergency alert system, commonly referred to as the Giant Voice, will be activated in the following areas: Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, South Finegayan housing, Flag Circle, I Puntan at Nimitz Hill, North and South Tipalao, Camp Covington, Apra View, Navy Munitions Site, U.S. Coast Guard and Polaris Point.

Residents and patrons in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise.

"The JRM Typhoon Pakyo exercise is a great opportunity to work with all stakeholders, government of Guam, federal partners and military partners to better understand roles and responsibilities ahead of an actual catastrophic typhoon," stated Office of Civil Defense administrator Charles Esteves. "The JRM exercise will prepare stakeholders for the government of Guam's Typhoon Pakyo workshop in June."

Kilili bill seeks to expands veterans' education benefits

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has introduced the GI Bill Access to Career Credentials Act to allow GI Bill educational benefits to be used to cover the cost of preparatory courses for license and certification exams. Currently, the GI Bill does not cover those kinds of preparatory courses.

"By covering these courses under the GI Bill," Sablan said in his introductory statement, "veterans and their eligible family members will have better access to the support they need to enter in-demand careers in health care, teaching, technology, and other fields that may require government licenses and certifications."

Twenty to 30 percent of Marianas High School graduates enter the military each year, according to the Public School System.

Sablan, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, has made it a key goal to make more benefits available to returning service members and their families.

The GI Bill eases reentry by helping pay for the costs of training for new careers in civilian life. But in today's economy, increasingly reliant on workers with technical skills, new careers sometimes require passing complex license and certification exams.

"These exams are not easy, and not all students pass on their first attempt," Sablan said. "That is why I think the GI Bill needs to be updated to cover courses designed to help them pass."

Northern Marianas College, for instance, charges $400 for a course to help prepare for the nurse licensing exam. Currently, the GI Bill would not cover the cost of that prep course.

For the past 75 years more than 25 million veterans and their families have used the GI Bill. Over that time Congress has periodically expanded the law to cover non-tuition expenses, such as college admissions test fees, admissions test preparatory courses, and exam fees for licenses and certifications. Some 5,700 GI Bill students used their license and certification exam fees reimbursement benefit over the last year and a half, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. But courses designed to help them pass these tests are not reimbursable.

Sablan's bill, H.R. 2934, is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Republican Jim Banks of Indiana is an original cosponsor of the legislation. ***(PR)***

Court grants partial judgment in favor of Express Financial

The Superior Court granted last week a partial default judgment in the sum of $1,068.43 in favor of Express Financial following a lawsuit filed against Albert R. Moolang.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted partially and denied partially the requested fees mentioned in the lawsuit filed by Express Financial against Moolang.

The lawsuit was filed with the Superior Court last March.

Moolang failed to appear before the court to plead or defend himself so the court entered a default judgement in favor of Express Financial.

According to the order, the court granted Express Financial's requests for the principal sum due of $843.43 and the filing cost of $225. The court also granted post-judgement interest of 9 percent per annum.

However, the court denied Express Financial's request for late fees worth $50, attorneys fees, and also denied the request for pre-judgement interest of 24 percent per annum worth $89.84.

The court found that Moolang did breach his contract with Express Financial because he failed to pay off his loan of $4,004.45 that he borrowed back in 2015. The principal amount still remaining amounts to $843.43, which the court granted in favor of Express Financial.

The court, however, denied some of Express Financial's other requests because the evidence provided were not enough to warrant judgement in their favor. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

58 join Lion's Club International leadership training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Lion's Club International pose for a photo during their two-day leadership training at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan that was held last May 18-19.

A total of 58 individuals joined the first Regional Lion's Leadership Institute on Saipan last May 18 and 19 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The two-day training included leadership fundamentals, teamwork, diversity, goal setting, time management, public speaking, personal mission statement, member motivation, and local issues and opportunities, among others.

The training concluded with a graduation ceremony complete with pins and certifications for the members as well as a dinner for the club members.

Guam Lions facilitated the training, headed by Lion's district governor Danny Cruz.

District 204, Region 2 is composed of six clubs—the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Unity LC, Saipan Marianas LC, Saipan Alliance LC, Saipan Natibu LC, and Saipan Centennial LC.

"Each club is autonomous, they can create their own projects, community services, and fundraising but the six clubs can work as one as Region 2," the organization noted in a statement.

"We need this kind of training, the things that we learned are all applicable in our daily lives. …Being a Lion member, it gives us more understanding of 'Lionism' and volunteerism," the organization stated.

For those interested in joining the Lions Clubs, contact its members or visit their website at www.lionsclubs.org. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
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Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

MAY 29, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Roll Call
  B. Adoption of Agenda
  C. Adoption of Minutes
    1. February 22, 2019
    2. March 6, 2019
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Administrative Matters
      a. Personnel Rules & Regulations – Draft
      b. Personnel & Budget & Other Administrative Matters
    2. Loan Matters
    3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities
      a. QC Beneficiaries' Status
      b. Administrative Hearing _ Alter City Group, Inc.
      c. CBO Financial Partnership
  B. Comptroller's Report
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Housing Financing
  B. CPA Resolution
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Financial Options for Specific CIPs
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

MAY 29, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL RECONVENE ITS MEETING OF MAY 3, 2019 ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 AT 9:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Roll Call
  ~~B. Election of Officers~~
  ~~C. Adoption of Agenda~~
  ~~D. Adoption of Minutes~~
    ~~1. February 21, 2018~~

~~II. PUBLIC COMMENTS~~

III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's / Loan Manager's Report
  B. Legal Counsel's Report – Litigation Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Amendment to the DCD Rules & Regulations
  B. Accounts Write-Off

V. NEW BUSINESS
  ~~A. New Loan Application~~

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices.

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
May 30, 2019 at 5:00 pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Approval of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges:
  New Applicants:
    1) Dr. Yoichi Inaba
    2) Dr. Justin Van Der Meid
    3) Dr. Mark Dwinell
    4) Dr. Alexandra Pulst-Korenberg
    5) Dr. Jennifer Linden
    6) Dr. Mark Wallace
    7) Dr. Lawrence Thurman
    8) Dr. Joseph Shumway

  Renewal Applicants
    9) Dr. Francois Classens
VII. Chargemaster - Fee Update
VIII. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 233-8756

‘We’ll never forget our heroes’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi was ground zero Monday for the observance of Memorial Day in the Commonwealth, with government officials led by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, ranking military officers, and families of veterans giving honors to veterans of various conflicts.

Joint Region Marianas legal counsel Commander Harry W. Elliott IV, who was Monday’s keynote speaker, was joined at the ceremony by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao, CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs executive director Stanley Iakopo, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan), Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Edmund S. Villagomez, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

The Saipan Pacific Winds provided the musical backdrop to Monday’s Memorial Day commemoration, while the Marianas High School color guard did flag duties at the ceremony, joined by the Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion. Officers from the Department of Public Safety provided a 21-gun salute, just before two U.S. Air Force planes made a flyby over the cemetery.

In his remarks, Palacios said: “Today, we are gathered here on this sacred ground to honor the lives and deeds of some of our country’s and our islands’ greatest heroes: the men and women who laid down their lives for freedom and who contributed so much to the greater good for us all.”

“To every family here today, our islands thank you and keep you in our prayers. We will never forget our heroes,” he added.

In his address, Elliott said the United States was founded on a simple but radical idea: that all humans are created equal, with inalienable rights.

“As a nation, we have struggled—often mightily—to fully realize this principle. Yet imperfect as we have been as a nation toward these goals through the years, with each young man or woman who dedicates their lives to the preservation of this ideal, we inch closer to the nation we aspire to become,” he said.

He told the story of Daw-

See HEROES on Next Page

Memorial Day keynote speaker Commander Harry Elliott IV, Joint Region Marianas’ legal counsel, delivers his address at Marpi’s Veterans Cemetery on Monday. ERWIN ENCINARES

The Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion joins Monday’s observance of Memorial Day. JON PEREZ

Members of the Winkfield family honor their relative, Audra, as part of the CNMI’s observance of Memorial Day. JON PEREZ

Rev. Fr. Albert Pellezar, OAR, blesses the graves of those who sacrificed their lives in service of their country. JON PEREZ

A member of VFW Post 3457 lays a flower wreath on the gravesite of a soldier in Monday’s observance of Memorial Day at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. JON PEREZ

JON PEREZ

The dignitaries join in a moment of silence during the CNMI’s observance of Memorial Day on Monday.

HEROES

From Page 8

son Donale Brown, who is the grandfather of his friend and fellow lawyer. He said that Brown was part of the Marines that landed and helped liberate the island of Saipan from the Japanese during World War II. Private First Class Brown died less than three miles from the Veterans Cemetery.

Elliot said that his friend has asked him to collect a jar of sand from the shores of Garapan to serve as their family's physical connection to the island.

Brown's family has yet to visit the island where he gave up his life, Elliot said, but that jar of sand will forever serve as their connection to him and the future generations of their family.

U.S. Air Force planes make a flyby during Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. JON PEREZ

A family gathers together to remember their loved one at the Veterans Cemetery on Monday during Memorial Day rites. ERWIN ENCINARES

ERWIN ENCINARES

A family visits a relative's gravesite at the Veterans Cemetery.

ERWIN ENCINARES

The Marianas High School color guard are joined by CNMI and military officials in laying a wreath at the Veterans Cemetery.

Families of veterans who served the U.S. military, mostly during World War II, are presented with floral offerings. ERWIN ENCINARES

ERWIN ENCINARES

The Marianas High School color guard carries the wreath to lay it below the flags displayed Monday at the Veterans Cemetery.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), center, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, right, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, lead the wreath-laying ceremony as part of the CNMI's observance of Memorial Day. JON PEREZ

JON PEREZ

From left, House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan) join the CNMI's observance of Memorial Day.

JON PEREZ

The Saipan Pacific Winds provided the musical backdrop to Monday's Memorial Day commemoration at the Veterans Cemetery.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Families gather together to remember their loved one at the Veterans Cemetery on Monday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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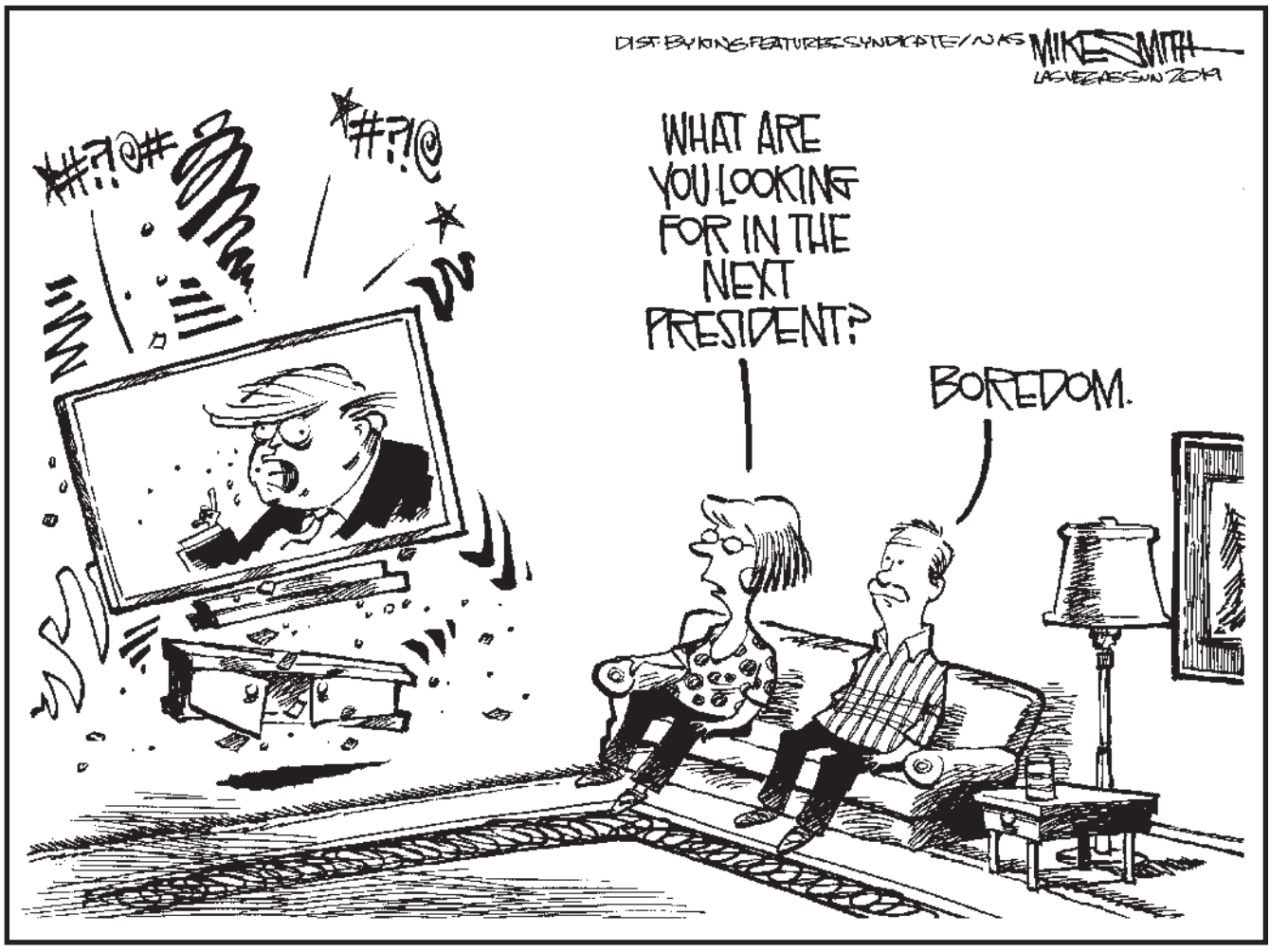


Facebook's response to the doctored Nancy Pelosi video was as spineless as ever

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

You'd think that it would be an easy call for Facebook to remove and block videos that are indisputably altered to fool the public.

You would be wrong.

The British news site the *Guardian* reported Friday that Facebook had refused to remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaking at an event in Washington on Wednesday; the audio had been manipulated to give the false impression that she was mentally impaired. *The Washington Post* reported Thursday that copies of the video had been spreading on social media, including placement on Facebook's conservative Politics WatchDog page, where it racked up 2.5 million views.

As it turns out, even in its supposed efforts to eradicate fake news, Facebook isn't willing to remove false content from its site.

Here's the company's policy on the issue: "We want to help people stay informed without stifling productive public discourse. There is also a fine line between false news and satire or opinion. For these reasons, we don't remove false news from Facebook but instead, significantly reduce its distribution by showing it lower in the News Feed."

In other words, Facebook is happy to continue to provide its podium and microphone to false and misleading posts. But if someone complains, the company may turn down the volume.

That's outrageous. Pelosi haters may think it's funny to make her speech seem slurred and subtly suggest that her age (at 79, she's seven years older than President Trump) is getting the better of her. But it's easy to imagine the same stunt being pulled on Trump, who is far less articulate than Pelosi to start with—or on any other important figure in a public debate.

Facebook may be particularly reluctant to be seen as censoring the video in light of the heaping helping of denunciations from Trump and others on the right about giant tech companies' alleged anti-conservative bias. Trump sounded that note again Friday morning on Twitter, tweeting to his 60.5 million followers with no apparent irony about the "very popular Conservative Voices" that Twitter has silenced:

But the stakes here are enormous. House Democrats are fighting battles these days with Trump and congressional Republicans on multiple fronts, both in terms of legislation and oversight, and Pelosi is the Democrats' most visible leader. More to the point, she's actually a leader, unlike the Demo-

See FACEBOOK'S on next page

Service to a larger ideal

Editor's Note: The author is the keynote speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony this year.

By HARRY W. ELLIOTT IV
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Cmdr. Harry Elliott IV is the Joint Region Marianas regional environmental and real-estate legal counsel and Defense Coordinating Officer West.

Thank you for inviting me to speak today and to join with you—my brothers and sisters of the Mariana Islands—in commemorating Memorial Day.

I am extremely honored to be here with you as we celebrate our service members, their families, and all of those who stand and fight in the face of adversity so together we may have a better life.

Today we especially remember those heroes who sacrificed their own lives for the preservation of freedom and liberty.

Sacrifice is what we are commemorating today.

Our nation was founded on a very simple but very radical idea…that all humans were created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. As a nation, we have struggled—often mightily—to fully realize this principle.

Yet imperfect as we have been as a nation toward these goals through the years, with each young man or woman who dedicates their lives to the preservation of this ideal we inch closer to the nation we aspire to become.

Sacrifice is heroic when done in the service of an ideal bigger than ourselves. The heroes we commemorate today not only sacrificed their lives, but also sacrificed the lives they could have lived.

Harry O'Neal was a highly touted three-sport athlete coming out of Gettysburg College in 1939. While he excelled at football and basketball, baseball was O'Neal's passion. On the day of O'Neal's graduation, future baseball Hall of Famer and manager of the then Philadelphia Athletics, Conny Mack, came calling at O'Neal's home. Mack signed the 6-foot-3-inch 239-lb catcher to a contract that would pay him $290 a month.

O'Neal started that season as the Athletics' third string catcher relegated to the bullpen, warming up the pitchers. Despite his immense physical talent, O'Neal never had the opportunity to play in a Major League Baseball game until late summer. In the twilight hours of July 23, 1939, O'Neal's dreams of playing in a Major League game came true, when he was inserted into a game in the final two innings in a lopsided loss between the A's and the Detroit Tigers. O'Neal would never again be called into a major league game.

Like many Americans, O'Neal responded to the events of Dec. 7, 1941, by volunteering to fight. Less than a year later he had finished Marine Corps basic training and was pinned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Upon his commissioning he was assigned to the newly formed 4th Marine Division. His leadership quickly caught the attention of his superiors and he was soon promoted to first lieutenant. Things in his personal life were also going well. O'Neal married his high school sweetheart and together they made the cross-country trip from their home in Pennsylvania to California, where he would continue his training. The young couple spent what little time they could together before his inevitable deployment.

On Jan. 13, 1944, 1st Lt. Harry O'Neal and the Marines of the 25th Marine Regiment 4th Marine Division, loaded their gear onto ships and steamed for a relentless enemy waiting for them across the Pacific.

It wouldn't take long from leaving California for the young Marine to experience his first taste of action. Less than three weeks from saying goodbye to his wife, O'Neal waded across the shores of Kwajalein as part of the assault that made quick work of the fortified Japanese defenses. The Marines secured Kwajalein in only four days, marking a decisive shift of momentum for U.S. forces in the Pacific theater. By June 1944, O'Neal and his fellow Marines in the fighting 4th set their sights on their next major target—Saipan.

But just one day after landing on Saipan, O'Neal was hit in the arm from shrapnel from an artillery round. The injury sidelined him for weeks aboard a hospital ship. Having significantly healed O'Neal rejoined his troops on July 22, just days before his 4th Marine Division landed on Tinian. After a weeklong campaign, Tinian was secured and the Fourth Marine Division prepared for their next assault.

At 6:45am on Feb. 19, 1945, O'Neal and the 4th Marine Division commenced their fourth major assault in 13 months on the small volcanic island with black sand beaches known as Iwo Jima. Before noon that day, the 27-year-old O'Neal would make the ultimate sacrifice—becoming one of only two men with Major League baseball experience to die in World War II.

Not only did O'Neal sacrifice his burgeoning baseball career, but he sacrificed his life with his new family. This simple story of a man who played Americas pastime at the highest level may not have been known to you until today, but it was known by his family. Families carry the stories of sacrifice and traditions of service from generation to generation.

See SERVICE on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Monedan Familia

Guaha `nai madiskuten chagu` monedan familia ni mansabiun hegsu` I Deni`. Kulan i asuntu nina`ye bakterian lasarinu na machagu`e.

Huñgan makat yan komplikau na asuntu. Pot este na rason na debi in` pega gi hilu` lamasa para u guaha tinituhun dineskute gi asuntu.

`Nai in` chenig gi un` banda mas didog i pinadesen familia pot sumaga i moneda gi parehu na eskalera mientras presiun nesessidat sige hulu. Haf` na para in` fatañgaye i dichu asuntun linahyan?

Na ti in` hatsa kanai miyu agapa` man-manhula` para in` adelanta ha`anen niha? Manu `nai in` pega dignun miyu guine na asuntu?

Kuttura: Pot kinemprende, mauleg ta pula` haf` kumeke ilegña "kuttura". I palabra ha embrasa "modun linala` tautau" maseha manu gi tanu`.

Mauleg ta komprende para benefisiota mismu. Sin este, pues haf` na boten sin ni mapla` taliña ya sige huyuñg gi rubentason.

Kuttura i liñguahe! Estague` pisun kuttura. Solu sahyan ni mausa gi enteru elmundu deste antigu na tiempu. Sahyan ni sumede adelantu gi todu nasion.

Man-mafana`gue tautau propiu modun konbetsasion. Tinatiye gi finana`guen mañgge`. Makontinua i finana`guen todu atmos banda tai finagpu`.

Ginen este lokue` `nai matuge` hinanau natibu guine deste antigu na tiempu. Poresu na siña ta atan, maseha ti kabales, haf` fina`pos `sino estoriata kumu tautau este siha na petlas.

Para todu i ma-afuetsas na disision guine deste tiempun Españot banidosuyu` ni sensian man-guelota sumustene haf` dichu kutturan natibu!

Problemata: Lamegai `nai huhuñgug diniskontentu gi kualidat tautau ni manma-elihe para u dispone asuntun linahyan guine.

I propiu ineppi ti maput: gi oran botasion sehan ñaihon ya un` ayeg mauleg haye kapas para che`chu` linahyan. Mauleg tana` para mañan hipokritu!

I finatsu ti pot mantai abilidat hit dumisidi haye mauleg. Lau ti manmalagu` hit propiu disision. Malag manu i sensian konfiansa yan inañgoghu? Bidan hipokritu!

Haf` mohon ya in` atan dos biahe i kandidatu antes de un` matka na`an niha gi balotu? Gaige i asuntu gi dos patman kanaimu!

Espiritu: Seguruyu` na guaha `nai mana` fan mañiente hit ni espiritu ginen haye na membron familia `sino parentela ni esta madispone `sino umagoninias.

Giya guahu hu komprende na guaha `nai man-manbisita para ta mana`fan man-hassu ni kompliañus niha. Masusesede! Guaha `nai mabisitayu` gi guinefihu. Komprendiyun.

Ti mahñau manna`eyu` misa pot sineyu` orasion. Na geftau hau tinayuyot sa` todus hit para tafan madispone! Ni unu u soplu ginen uttimu kareran minachum atdau gi lemlem tautau.

Otru: Gi Lali Fo` antes kanaha` makat un` tuñgu` haye namase` sa` parehu estau enteru bisinu. Pues ayu mas hu prekura i mamulan biradan peskadot para bai e`suette guihan. Adahe makatdun niyog `sino ma-aflitu fresku na kineni` satmuneti pat mafute`. Esta papagpag sikoshu gigon hu sufa` galagun chalan.

■ ■ ■

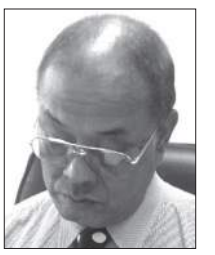
Parehu fogun yan satten inna` setbe gi muna`lagun hinegsa`. Lau i nina`lagun bihahu na hinegsa` mas kanu`un ke nina`apanhu. Hafa i difirensia? Kase gaige gi sensian konfiansa gi amku` pot mas pachaña kumu nanan guma`. Kontodu paladatta ha ulus halum `nai tana` motmut hinegsa` pachotta.

■ ■ ■

Un` `agun natibu siña bai kanu` sin totche—sunen agaga—masaibog masaibog pat sotne. Dispues, ma`ug gi estomaguta. Tinaka` tiempu estake para un` siente ñalañg. Mauleg na sunen agaga` in` kanu` ginen lanchun Tagpochau! Mandañkulu yan dañgsuñg na sune mina` kanu`un!

■ ■ ■

Ha kelaguen un` tiahu manog fresku. Gi tutuhun hu chague` pot tatnai hu kanu` antes. Era, ha tunun ñaihon dispues ha fotgiye lemon riat yan tigise doni` sali. Diberas na sentada. Tat ti papagpag sekosña guihe na amotsan talo`ane. Dios mihu!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

■ ■ ■

Hu katdun niyog un` pañglau Dungenese para sena. Hu chogue pot mahalañgyu` paupau na katdun pañglau piot `an magap sabotña gi halum kusina. Hu hahassu katdun pañglau tunas antes. Paire na sensin pañglau, mames!

■ ■ ■

Un` biahe lokue` mañgone`yu` sais na man-yomug umañg Tagpochau. Hu tunu gi lemlem tautau para sena-hu. `Nai magap sabotña gi bisinu tat ti mattu mamaisen haf` tininuhu. Hu planta i hinegsa` ya hu kombida mañena tininun umañg. Ni unu kumekuentus. Mantika na figan umañg!

■ ■ ■

Ha faisenyu` un` lahihu bisñietu haf` kuttura. Hu oppe na "liñguahe". Era, ti lagse` i patgon gi finu` Chamoru sa` puru finu` Eñglis gi gima` niha.

Ha atanyu` ya kulan chatseguru haf` para u sañgan. Hu ñañgun na u tutuhun umusa liñguahiña. Deste ayu puru konbetsasion finu` Chamoru. Siempre u tuñgu` haf` dichu hilaña i patgon.

■ ■ ■

`Nai un` ñega usun iñguahimu guiya ennau tutuhun destrosiun kutturamu mismu. Cha`mu malelefa na kutturamu gaige enteru gi liñguahimu. `An fatsu hau guine na patte pues chatnatibu mañamu yan kinempendemu haf` tinatemu. Gaige kutturan todu tautau gi liñguahen niha. Liñguahe solu sahyan `nai matutuhun huntan inakomprende gi asuntota siha. Liñguahe!

A sacred duty to honor and remember

Editor's Note: The following is the prepared remarks of Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios at the Memorial Day ceremony last Monday, May 27, 2019, at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our military families, our dignitaries, and everyone present today. Thank you for joining us on this solemn day of remembrance.

Today, we are gathered here on this sacred ground to honor the lives and deeds of some of our country's and our islands' greatest heroes: the men and women who laid down their lives for freedom and who contributed so much to the greater good for us all.

We join the families to pay tribute to their service and remember their sacrifices. To every family here today, our islands thank you and keep you in our prayers. We will never forget our heroes.

As a free people, we have a sacred duty to honor and remember our brave heroes, who have given their last full measure of devotion in defense of our country, freedom, and everything we stand for.

We salute every soldier who served to protect our islands, and we offer a renewed call towards friendship and peace. Our fallen heroes have shaped the future of our islands by giving us an opportunity to make this place better for our children and grandchildren.

This is why every year we come here to this sacred ground to remember all they have done for us. Our islands and our country are stronger and safer because of them. We will never forget. We will always remember. May they rest in peace.

By ARNOLD PALACIOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Arnold Palacios is the lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Thank you all. May God bless the families here today, may God bless our military, and may God bless the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SERVICE

From Page 10

Last Tuesday, I was in Washington, D.C. at a gathering of Navy attorneys. I shared with my colleagues that I would be speaking here today, and my good friend and fellow attorney Bobby Brown (yes that's his real name) asked me if I could do him a small favor.

Bobby's grandfather, Dawson Donale Brown, fought alongside Harry O'Neal with the 25th Marine Regiment during the Battle of Saipan. On July 5, 1944, Private First Class Dawson Brown was killed less than three miles from where we stand today. Neither Bobby nor any member of his family have ever had the opportunity to visit this beautiful island and see the place that his grandfather gave his life. Bobby holds the memory this sacrifice deep within him, and he asked me if I could gather some sand from the shores of Garapan to aid him in the passing of this memory for generations of the Brown family to come.

This jar of sand will serve as a physical connection for generations of the family Dawson Brown left behind. I want to pass this jar around. I have filled it with sand, I ask that you fill it with thoughts and prayers—so that it will be more than the ground consecrated by sacrifice, but filled with the lives that continue to live here because of it.

I also ask that you look at the individual grains of sand. Each grain is unique. Each sacrifice made has its own story of loss and of life. Just as the grains of sand come together to form the beauty of our beaches, each sacrifice—big or small—in the service of others joins together to make a more perfect nation.

I've seen sacrifice here—sacrifice that pays tribute to the lives of 1st Lt. O'Neal, Private First Class Brown, and countless others.

From the Seabees and the Airforce Red Horse engineers who built emergency roofs, to the high school student bringing food to their elderly neighbor, to the hours of service of our firefighters, Army and Navy reservists, and first responders. Sacrifices both big and small contributing, as grains of sand, to the greater story of recovery, to the betterment of these islands. As powerful as Super Typhoon Yutu was, it was not more powerful than the will and the strength of the people of the Marianas.

Celebrate this Memorial Day with thoughts and prayers for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. And commemorate their memory with continued service and sacrifice for the betterment of our community and our nation.

Let us remember on this Memorial Day that no sacrifice is small when is done in service to an ideal larger than ourselves.

Thank you. *Si yu'us ma'ase and ghilisou*.

My God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.

FACEBOOK'S

From Page 10

cratic freshmen who've gotten so much attention in the media. By making her a target, Trump's supporters are trying to discredit House Democrats generally, in the same way that they've tried for years to turn her into a hyperliberal caricature in the hope of electing more congressional Republicans.

(Given that Pelosi is widely seen as the most powerful brake on the House Democrats' zeal to impeach Trump, it doesn't make a lot of sense for Trump supporters to undermine her publicly. Unless, of course, they think it would help Trump's reelection chances if he were impeached. Hmm.)

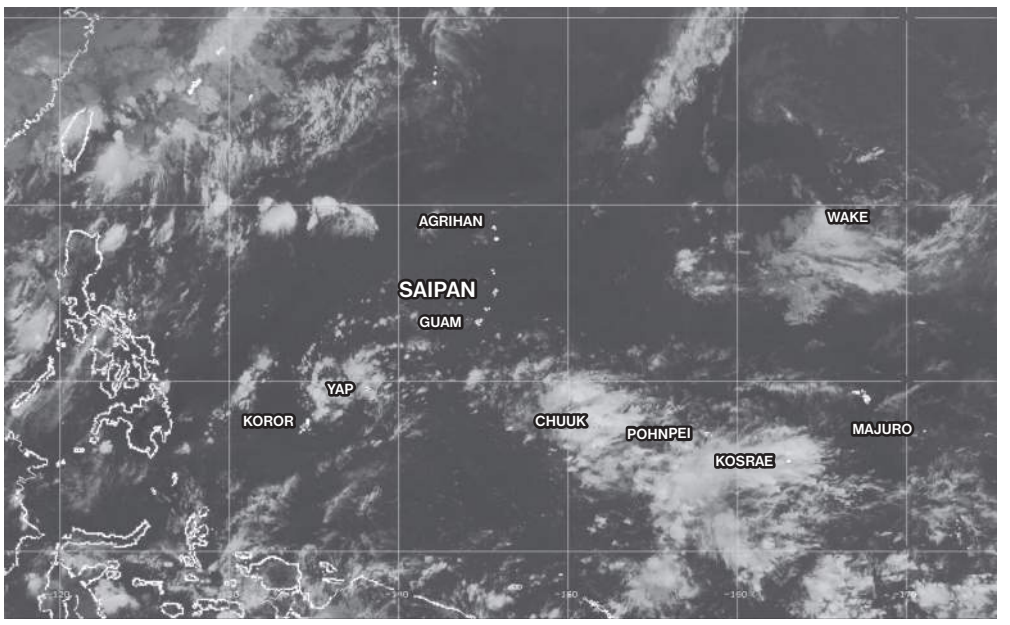
Anyway, Facebook can't continue to pretend that its only responsibility is not to promote fake news. Whether it likes it or not, it has to remove demonstrably false content from its platform. Whether it's bogus videos of elected officials or fake cancer cures, the effect on the body politic is the same.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 78°	88° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:51 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence and enough deep layer moisture will produce isolated showers and thunderstorms through Thursday. Satellite imagery and lightning detectors did indicate a few thunderstorms just outside the local area so thunderstorms in the forecast seems accurate.The convergence and moisture will decrease a little by Thursday night ending the chance of thunderstorms. Models do not show any large scale weather systems affecting the Marianas through the remainder of the forecast and only isolated showers are expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	86° / 55°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	88° / 74°
London	Cloudy	64° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 50°
Miami	Sunny	85° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	74° / 64°
Osaka	Rain	82° / 66°
Paris	Showers	66° / 54°
Busan	Cloudy	75° / 64°
Rome	Showers	66° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 53°
Seoul	Cloudy	77° / 55°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 72°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:01 AM	LOW TIDE	1.82
10:45 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.70
4:13 PM	LOW TIDE	1.38
10:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.64

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:02 AM	2:14 PM	-
Thursday	2:39 AM	3:01 PM	-
Friday	3:17 AM	3:51 PM	-
Saturday	3:56 AM	4:43 PM	-
Sunday	4:39 AM	5:37 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

New auto giant? Fiat Chrysler wants to merge with Renault

PARIS (AP)—Fiat Chrysler proposed on Monday to merge with France's Renault to create the world's third-biggest automaker, worth $40 billion, and combine forces in the race to make electric and autonomous vehicles.

The merged company would reshape the global industry: it would produce some 8.7 million vehicles a year, leapfrogging General Motors and trailing only Volkswagen and Toyota.

Shares of both companies jumped on the news of the offer, which would see each side's shareholders split ownership in the new manufacturer.

Renault welcomed what it called a "friendly" offer. The company's board met Monday at its headquarters outside Paris and said afterward that Renault will study the proposal "with interest." In a statement, Renault said such a fusion could "improve Renault's industrial footprint and be a generator of additional value for the Alliance" with Japan's Nissan and Mitsubishi.

AP

The Fiat Chrysler Automobiles world headquarters is shown in Auburn Hills, Mich., Monday, May 27, 2019.

Fiat Chrysler's offer comes at a key moment for Renault. The French manufacturer had wanted to merge fully with Nissan, but those plans were derailed by the arrest of boss Carlos Ghosn on financial misconduct charges in Japan.

Now, questions are growing over the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance , which together make more passenger cars than any one company. While Fiat Chrysler says the merger with Renault would accommodate the alliance and lead to savings for them, it is unclear how the Japanese companies might react in the longer term to being tied to a much larger partner.

Automakers have collaborated more in recent years as they come under pressure to invest heavily in developing electric cars, self-driving vehicles and in-car connectivity. Regulators, particularly in Europe and China, are pushing automakers to produce electric vehicles and meet tougher climate change regulations, pressure that only grew after scandals over the amount of pollutants emitted by gas and diesel-powered engines.

A deal would save 5 billion euros ($5.6 billion) a year for the merged companies by sharing research, purchasing costs and other activities, Fiat Chrysler said. It promised the deal would involve no plant closures, but it didn't address potential job cuts.

The companies are largely complementary: Fiat Chrysler is stronger in the U.S. and SUV markets, while Renault is stronger in Europe and in developing electric vehicles. Analysts say both companies are weak in China, which is now the world's largest auto market.

Together, they would be worth almost 37 billion euros ($40 billion). Fiat Chrysler, which includes the holding company of the founding Agnelli family with a 29% stake, proposed that its shareholders get a 2.5 billion euro ($2.8 billion) special dividend because of Fiat Chrysler's higher market value.

"This operation will bring benefits to both countries," Fiat Chrysler Chairman John Elkann told reporters in Italy, noting that it had been 10 years since Fiat's takeover of bankrupt Chrysler, in exchange for small-car technology and management know-how.

The car market has shifted dramatically in the meantime, with Fiat Chrysler abandoning small cars in the United States in favor of SUVs.

Analysts at financial firm Jefferies said it was "hard to disagree with the logic" of the deal, as there is a strong fit in the markets each company covers and the brands they offer.

Study suggests e-cigarette flavorings may pose heart risk

WASHINGTON (AP)—E-cigarettes aren't considered as risky as regular cigarettes, but researchers have found a clue that their flavorings may be bad for the heart.

Longtime smokers who can't kick the addiction sometimes switch to e-cigarettes, in hopes of avoiding the cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco smoke.

But cigarette smoking doesn't just cause lung cancer. It's a leading cause of heart attacks, too, and little is known about e-cigarettes and heart disease. Chemicals in the inhaled vapor may pose unique risks that are important to understand, especially as more and more teens take up vaping.

"It's not possible for me to go into a patient and strip their artery and test it" for a reaction to vaping, said Dr. Joseph Wu, director of Stanford University's cardiovascular institute.

So his team tried the next best thing for a study published Monday: In laboratory dishes, they grew cells that normally line healthy human blood vessels. They exposed the cells to six different e-cigarette flavorings, testing if the flavors — and not just the nicotine — caused any effects.

They also tracked what happened when those cells were bathed in blood taken from people right after they had an e-cigarette, the way chemicals from vaping would make their way to the cardiovascular system. They also compared the cells' exposure to blood from nonsmokers and people who smoked a regular cigarette.

Vaping and some flavorings, even without nicotine, triggered blood vessel dysfunction that can increase the risk of heart disease, the researchers reported in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

Cinnamon and menthol seemed the most toxic. But overall, cells showed signs of damage and were inflamed, less able to form new blood vessels or heal wounds.

Small laboratory studies like this one can't prove vaping really does harm, cautioned Dr. Jane Freedman of the University of Massachusetts, who wasn't involved in the research. But she said the work should spark additional safety testing.

The findings "suggest that even without the smoke of combustible cigarette products, there may be a smoldering fire of adverse health effects," she wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Green parties' gains could boost climate action in Europe

BERLIN (AP)—Green parties' surprisingly strong showing in elections for the 751-seat European Parliament raised hopes—particularly among young voters—that global warming and other environmental issues will get more serious consideration on the continent.

Provisional results Monday showed the left-leaning Greens coming in fourth in the balloting with 69 seats, an increase of 17 from the last election, five years ago. Perhaps more significantly, the results showed how environmental concerns can transcend the political issues that dominate most European Union elections.

"The European election was a climate election," declared Anna Kretzschmar, a German in her 20s who was out in a Berlin park with her young child.

Kretzschmar welcomed the lift the Greens received in Sunday's vote, saying it would give them a stronger voice to raise the alarm about global warming.

"I think we are more affected by climate change than we realize," she added.

Among other things, the Green movement has strongly backed scientists' calls for the 28-nation bloc to end all greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century, a goal that would require an epic shift in Europe's economy away from fossil fuels.

In Germany, the Greens did particularly well in large cities and among young voters, according to the Infratest dimap research institute. The gains followed months of street protests from students demanding action to stop global warming.

The German Greens' gains came at the expense of all other mainstream parties, including the center-left Social Democrats, who slumped to third place behind the Greens, and Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Christian Democrats.

Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state and a member of Merkel's party, called the outcome "a wake-up call for politics."

In France, the environmental EELV party received almost 13.5% of the vote, coming in third. Green parties also polled strongly in Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands. In Britain, the Greens—a largely insignificant force nationally—took 7 seats in the European Parliament vote.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,826.06	25,585.69	7,637.01
+3.82	+95.19	+8.73
+0.14%	+0.37%	+0.11%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.44	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	64.38
British Pound	0.79	Indian Rupee	68.96	Singapore Dollar	1.38
Canadian Dollar	1.34	Indonesian Rupiah	14,161.12	South Korean Won	1,168.81
Chinese Yuan	6.78	Malaysian Ringgit	4.15	Swiss Franc	1.00
Euro	0.89	New Zealand Dollar	1.53	Taiwan Dollar	30.95
		Philippine Peso	51.26	Thailand Baht	31.75

Nation

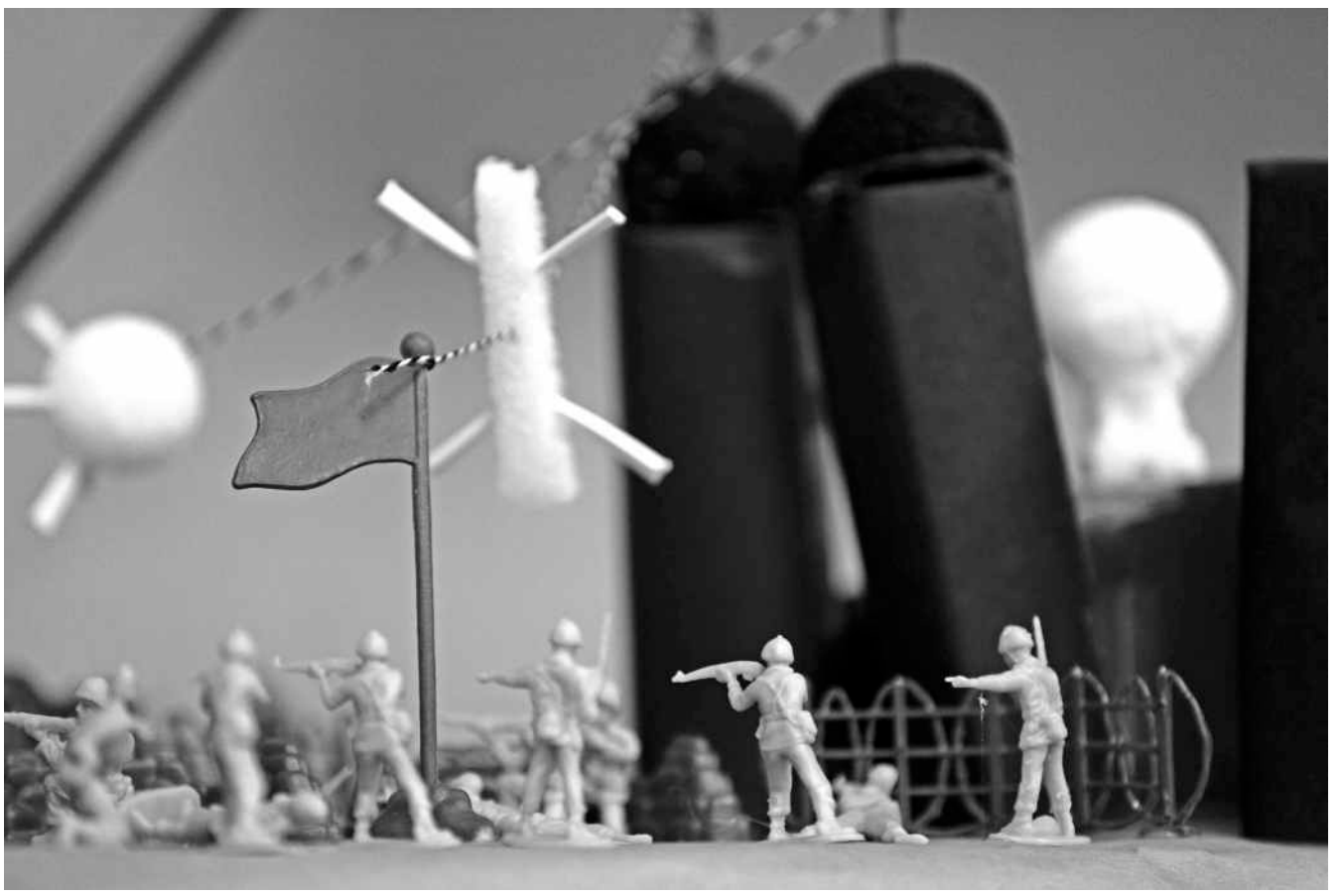
D-Day's 75th anniversary renews interest in some classrooms

CARY, N.C. (AP)—Kasey Turcol has just 75 minutes to explain to her high school students the importance of D-Day—and if this wasn't the 75th anniversary of the turning point in World War II, she wouldn't devote that much time to it. D-Day is not part of the required curriculum in North Carolina—or in many other states.

Turcol reminds her students at Crossroads FLEX High School in Cary, North Carolina, that D-Day was an Allied victory that saved Europe from Nazi tyranny and that the young men who fought and died were barely older than they are. She sprinkles her lesson with details about the number of men, ships, and planes involved in the landing at Normandy while adding a few lesser-known facts about a Spanish spy and a deadly military practice conducted six months earlier in England.

In the U.S. and other countries impacted by the events on June 6, 1944, historians and educators worry that the World War II milestone is losing its resonance with today's students.

In France, which was liberated from German occupation, D-Day isn't a standalone topic in schools. German schools concentrate on the Holocaust and the Nazi dictatorship. And despite having been part of the Allied Powers, in Russia, the schools avoid D-Day because they believe it was the victories on the Eastern Front that won the war.



AP

This photo taken Tuesday, May 21, 2019 shows a project created by students learning about the D-Day invasion at Normandy during a history class at Crossroads FLEX school in Cary, N.C.

"History has taken a back seat" in the U.S. because of the focus on science and math classes, says Cathy Gorn, executive director of National History Day in College Park, Maryland.

In the U.S., teaching about World War II varies from state to state. It's often up to the teachers to decide how much time they want to give to individual battles like D-Day.

California's History-Social Science Framework , adopted in 2016, includes for sophomores an expansive unit on World War II that includes how the conflict was "a total war," the goals of the Allied and Axis Powers and how the fighting was fought on different fronts. The unit also includes a section on the Holocaust.

In New York, school officials are using the D-Day anniversary to review the curriculum and "make recommendations on how the current average time of 90 minutes of World War II study in a school year can be strengthened, expanded and mandated."

There are special programs available to immerse select students in the history of D-Day.

For eight years, National History Day sent 15 pairs of students and teachers to Normandy to immerse them in the history of D-Day. The high school sophomores and juniors would research an individual soldier close to them—a family member or someone from their hometown—who died. On the last day, the group visited a cemetery where each student read a eulogy for their individual soldier.

Teachers also have outside resources. The National World War II Museum offers an electronic field trip through D-Day and provides suggested lessons plans.

In North Carolina, history is taught through "conceptual design" with connections to themes such as geography, economics and politics, said Meghan Grant, coordinating teacher for secondary social studies in Wake County schools.

The lessons are based on a method of teaching social studies that was developed in 2013 and used by about half the states, said Larry Paska, executive director of the National Council for the Social Studies . Paska said it may focus on asking students a question like "What makes an event a turning point in the war?" Students then would use difference sources of evidence to back up their answer.

As part of her D-Day lesson, Turcol tells her class of juniors and seniors that the Germans thought an attack from the Allied forces wouldn't be possible.

"It's too stormy. It's too risky," she says. "And what do we do? Yeah, we find a glimmer of hope. On June 5th, the skies kind of clear. The moon kind of shines. And we're like, this is the moment. This is what is happening."

She tells students that Gen. Dwight Eisenhower kept D-Day plans on the "down low."

Turcol plays a few minutes of a documentary about D-Day to "show you the true humanity of the war," she says.

"You saw the German praying... asking for his mother, father, asking for this to be over. Not everybody is on the same message in Germany," she says. "Everybody here is a father, a mother, a brother, a cousin, a friend. So every life matters."

Students in Europe also receive dramatically different lessons on D-Day depending on where they live.

In some Democrat-led states, lawmakers differ on abortion

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A bill seeking to preserve abortion protections in state law fails to pass a key committee. Lawmakers cite God, church and faith in proclaiming their opposition to it. Abortion-rights groups protest outside a gathering of lawmakers.

What sounds like a legislative fight in a state controlled by anti-abortion Republicans is actually quite different.

The bill seeking to protect abortion rights is in Rhode Island, a state controlled by Democrats at all levels of political power, and it's stalled.

"This is an issue, I think, where it's very difficult to draw a line down party lines," said Democratic state Sen. Erin Lynch Prata, a committee chairwoman who voted in favor of the bill. "It's a very personal issue to a lot of people."

Rhode Island is not the only state led politically by Democrats where abortion-rights legislation has either died or stalled this year. A bill to remove a dormant criminal ban on abortion in New Mexico was voted down in March by the Democrat-led state Senate, despite a push to shore up abortion rights by Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. In Hawaii, where all but six of the 76 lawmakers are Democrats, a bill allowing advanced-practice registered nurses to perform some abortions passed the Senate but died in a House committee.

To be sure, some Democratic-led states are taking steps to enshrine the right to an abortion should the U.S. Supreme Court ever overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Among them are Nevada, New York and Vermont.

But the enthusiasm and recent success of anti-abortion activists to pass near total bans on the procedure in about a half-dozen Republican-dominated states provides a stark contrast to the more muted response in states controlled by Democrats.

In those states, the legislative records and personal views of Democratic lawmakers are mixed, much to the disappointment of abortion-rights supporters.

Jocelyn Foye, co-director of The Womxn Project in Rhode Island, said she thinks that while many politicians run as Democrats in the state to win, they don't always vote like Democrats, particularly on abortion rights. She said she is frustrated that the abortion-protection bill has not progressed.

"At the same time, it has empowered me, as well as the community we have working with us, to really just not let up," Foye said. "We're going to keep fighting."

Texas lawmakers approve safe gun storage program despite NRA

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lawmakers in gun-loving Texas have quietly gone around the National Rifle Association by slipping language into a massive spending bill that would fund a $1 million public safety campaign on gun storage.

The last-minute move late Sunday sets up a political test rarely seen in Texas for Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who must decide whether to veto the spending or to ignore NRA opposition and approve the program.

An Abbott spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and the Texas Legislature adjourned Monday until 2021.

The campaign for safe home gun storage is a small item in the two-year, $250 billion state budget, and it was fiercely opposed by the NRA and gun-rights activists. The measure failed to get a vote and appeared all but dead weeks ago.

Then budget negotiators—the majority of whom are Republicans—added the funding into a budget bill. The legislation was approved Sunday night by the GOP-controlled Legislature.

"I have full confidence that the governor will look at it hard and will realize it's all about saving lives. I hope there is no one discouraging him," Gyl Switzer, executive director of Texas Gun Sense, said Monday.

Abbott has said he would support promoting gun safety. But he has also bowed to pressure from the NRA and gun rights advocates on issues such as stiffer penalties for negligent gun storage, as well as "red flag" laws to keep guns away from people deemed dangerous to themselves or others.

Creating a new safe storage campaign in Texas would be a rare defeat for the NRA, which has long flexed considerable muscle in a state with more than 1.3 million handgun license holders.

Texas lawmakers have steadily expanded gun rights over the last decade. That includes a Sunday night vote to allow anyone who can legally own a gun to carry it openly or concealed for a week after a natural disaster declaration.

The NRA and its state affiliate, the Texas State Rifle Association, have worked to beat back new restrictions on gun ownership, including after two recent high-profile mass shootings: one at a church in Sutherland Springs in November 2017 that killed more than two dozen people, including a pregnant woman, and a shooting at Santa Fe High School near Houston that killed 10 people and wounded 13 others in May 2018.

Asia

Man with knife attacks schoolgirls in Japan; 3 believed dead

KAWASAKI, Japan (AP)—A man carrying a knife in each hand and screaming "I will kill you" attacked schoolgirls waiting at a bus stop just outside Tokyo on Tuesday, wounding 16 people and leaving three dead, including the attacker, Japanese authorities and media said.

Most of the victims were schoolgirls who were lined up at a bus stop near Noborito Park in the city of Kawasaki when the man in his 40s or 50s began slashing them with knives.

Masami Arai, an official at the Kawasaki city office, told the AP that 16 people, most of them schoolgirls, were wounded and three others, including the attacker, were believed killed. Arai said three of the injuries were serious and 13 others were not life-threatening.

NHK national television, quoting police, said that the suspect died after cutting himself in the neck. Police wouldn't immediately confirm the specifics of that report.

Most of the victims attended a school founded by Soeurs de la Charite de Quebec, an organization of Catholic nuns in Quebec City in Canada.

Rescuers work at the scene of an attack in Kawasaki, near Tokyo Tuesday, May 28, 2019. AP

A witness told the Mainichi newspaper that he heard children shrieking after walking past a bus, and when he turned around, he saw a man wielding a knife in each hand, screaming "I will kill you" and that several children were on the ground.

NHK, citing police, said that a bus driver told officials that a man holding a knife in each hand walked toward the bus and started slashing children. NHK also interviewed a witness who said he saw the suspect trying to force his way onto a bus.

The attacker's identity and motives weren't immediately known.

Television footage showed emergency workers giving first aid to people inside an orange tent set up on the street, and police and other officials carrying the injured to ambulances.

Although Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world, it has had a series of high-profile killings, including in 2016 when a former employee at a home for the disabled allegedly killed 19 and injured more than 20 others.

In 2008, seven people were killed by a man who slammed a truck into a crowd of people in central Tokyo's Akihabara electronics district and then stabbed passers-by.

Also in 2016, a man stabbed four people at a library in northeastern Japan, allegedly over their mishandling of his questions. No one was killed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan lands aircraft on highway as part of military drills

CHANGHUA, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan has landed war planes on a normally busy highway to simulate a response to a Chinese attack on its airfields. Tuesday's exercise is part of annual drills designed to showcase the island's military capabilities and resolve to repel an attack from across the Taiwan Strait amid perceptions of a rising threat. China considers the island its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary. President Tsai Ing-wen presided at the exercise in the southern county of Changhua. She said China's long-distance training exercises, including sending fighter jets to circle the island, were threatening regional peace and stability, requiring Taiwan to maintain a high degree of vigilance. Aircraft deployed included U.S.-made F-16, French Mirage 2000 and Taiwan-made IDF fighter jets and U.S.-made E-2K airborne early warning aircraft.

Officials: Taliban attacks kill 10 Afghan troops, 4 police

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bombing claimed by the Taliban killed 10 Afghan soldiers in the country's west while insurgent attacks on security checkpoints in northern Afghanistan killed four policemen, local officials said Monday. The soldiers were driving back to base after picking up their salaries in the country's western Farah province. They were travelling in a Humvee when the explosion took place on Sunday afternoon in the Bala Buluk district, said Shah Mahmmod Nahimi, a provincial councilman. "The blast was so intense that no one in the Humvee survived," he added. Elsewhere, the Taliban targeted several checkpoints in northern Sari Pul province on Sunday night, killing four members of the security forces and wounding 22, said Zabiullah Amani, the provincial governor's spokesman. The attacks took place on the outskirts of the provincial capital of Sari Pul and triggered gunbattles that lasted for hours, he said, adding that 15 Taliban fighters were also killed. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Farah attack in a statement on their website but did not make any announcements about the Sari Pul attack.

Canada to remove trash from PH by end of June

TORONTO (AP)—Canada said Wednesday that by the end of June it will remove truckloads of garbage which Filipino officials say were illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago. Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said the government has awarded a contract to French shipping giant Bollore Logistics Canada that calls for the return of 69 containers filled with household waste and electronic garbage. "The company will begin preparation for shipping in the coming days. The removal will be complete by the end of June, as the waste must be safely treated to meet Canadian safety and health requirements," McKenna's department said in a statement. The trash is expected to be back in Canada by the end of summer. Salvador Panelo, a spokesman for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, held a news conference earlier Wednesday to announce that Duterte has ordered officials to look for a private shipping company to transport the garbage to Canadian territory in an escalation of his increasingly adversarial stance.

Trump wishes 'happy Memorial Day' to US, Japanese troops

ABOARD THE USS WASP (AP)—President Donald Trump on Tuesday wished "Happy Memorial Day" to U.S. service members aboard an American assault ship docked in Japan.

They shouted "U.S.A. U.S.A." Trump called them a "tough bunch of people" and dubbed them "daring and mighty warriors in the Pacific."

The president treated his appearance aboard the USS Wasp as a Memorial Day event because it was still Monday in the United States when he addressed hundreds of members of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet.

"I have to wish you all a very happy Memorial Day," Trump said. "On this Memorial Day evening in the United States, Americans are concluding a sacred day of remembrance, reflection and prayer."

Before appearing on the USS Wasp, Trump and first lady Melania Trump visited a Japanese destroyer, the J.S. Kaga, docked nearby. Standing alongside Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Trump delivered the same "happy Memorial Day" message to the Japanese forces.

Some veterans and their families don't like the phrase "Happy Memorial Day." They say they prefer that the federal holiday remain a somber occasion for the nation to honor those who gave their lives in service to the United States.

"Our republic endures because of brave men and women who are willing to lay down their lives to defend us all," Trump said. "Our freedom is earned through the blood and sweat and toil and sacrifice of great American patriots just like you."

Trump has come under sharp criticism for skipping ceremonial visits to cemeteries to honor America's war dead on designated national holidays. Since then, the White House has been careful to show the public that he is marking occasions like Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Before leaving for Japan, Trump placed small U.S. flags near headstones at Arlington National Cemetery.

Service members aboard the USS Wasp, docked at the mouth of Tokyo Bay, welcomed Trump with loud cheers and applause. Several wore round patches emblazoned with a likeness of Trump and the words: "Make Aircrew Great Again"—a play on his campaign slogan.

Trump's helicopter trips to both ships capped his four-day state visit to Japan. He became the first head of state to meet Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, since his May 1 ascension to the throne.

The visit also allowed Trump and Abe to spend hours of time together on the golf course, at a sumo wrestling match and in meetings discussing trade, North Korea's nuclear program, Iran and other bilateral issues.

Trump was scheduled to return to the White House on Tuesday.

World

In Venezuela, criminals feel the pinch of an economic crisis

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The feared street gangster El Negrito sleeps with a pistol under his pillow and says he's lost track of his murder count. But despite his hardened demeanor, he's quick to gripe about how Venezuela's failing economy is cutting into his profits.

Firing a gun has become a luxury. Bullets are expensive at $1 each. And with less cash circulating on the street, he says robberies just don't pay like they used to.

For the 24-year-old, that has all given way to a simple fact: Even for Venezuelan criminals it's become harder to get by.

"If you empty your clip, you're shooting off $15," said El Negrito, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition he be identified only by his street name and photographed wearing a hoodie and face mask to avoid attracting unwelcomed attention. "You lose your pistol or the police take it and you're throwing away $800."

Officials of President Nicolás Maduro's socialist administration stopped publishing statistics charting crime trends long ago.

But in something of an unexpected silver lining to the country's all-consuming economic crunch, experts say armed assaults and killings are plummeting in one of the world's most violent nations. At the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence, a Caracas-based nonprofit group, researchers estimate homicides have plunged up to 20% over the last three years based on tallies from media clippings and sources at local morgues.

The decline has a direct link to the economic tailspin that has helped spark a political battle for control of the once-wealthy oil nation.

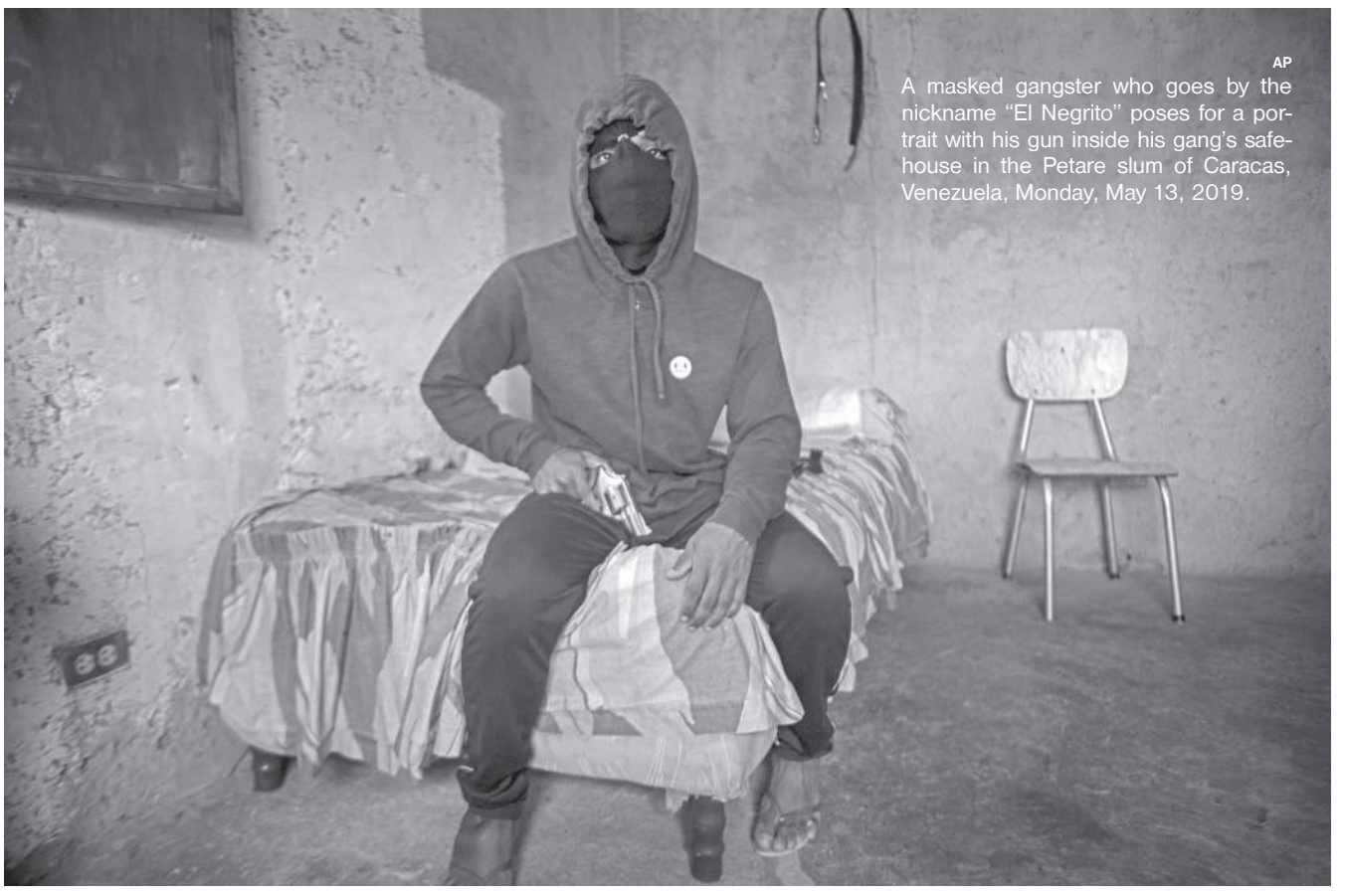
Soaring inflation topped 1 million percent last year, making the local bolivar nearly useless even though ATM machines have been unable to dispense more than a dollar's worth of scrip anyway. The severe scarcity of food and medicine has driven some 3.7 million to seek better prospects in places like Colombia, Panama and Peru — the majority of them young males from whom gangs recruit. And workdays are frequently curtailed due to nationwide strikes.

But as the country descends into a state of lawlessness, many Venezuelans who turn to crime find themselves subject to the same chaos that has led to a broader political and social meltdown.

Critics blame 20 years of the socialist revolution launched by the late President Hugo Chávez, who expropriated once-thriving businesses that today produce a fraction of their potential under government management.

Earlier this year, opposition leader Juan Guaidó launched a bold campaign with the support of the U.S. and more than 50 nations to oust Maduro, who succeeded Chávez. However, Guaidó has yet to make good on his promises to restore democracy, spark a robust economy and make the streets safer.

As a result of the chaos, crime has not so much disappeared as simply morphed in form. While assaults are down, reports of theft and pilfering of everything from copper telephone wires to livestock are surging. Meanwhile, drug trafficking and illegal gold mining have become default activities for organized crime.



AP

A masked gangster who goes by the nickname "El Negrito" poses for a portrait with his gun inside his gang's safehouse in the Petare slum of Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, May 13, 2019.

Macron vs Salvini: Two leaders face off over EU's future

BRUSSELS (AP)—France's pro-EU president and the leader of Italy's euroskeptic, far-right movement jockeyed for the role of chief powerbroker on the continent Monday after elections to the European Parliament hollowed out the traditional political middle.

The four days of balloting that drew to a close Sunday across the European Union's 28 countries ended the domination of the main center-right and center-left parties in Parliament and established the anti-EU forces on the right and the environmentalists on the left as forces to be reckoned with.

Voters delivered the highest turnout in 20 years, rejecting mainstream politics in France, Germany, Britain and Italy.

The results could make the business of governing Europe even trickier, leaving the Parliament deadlocked over key issues to come, including immigration, a major trade agreement with the United States, global warming, regulation of the tech industry and, of course, Brexit.

The outcome of the election is already setting off a power struggle.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron's party narrowly lost to the French far-right, led by Marine Le Pen. Macron, whose party was poised to secure 21 seats to 22 for Le Pen's National Rally, spent Monday busily amassing allies ahead of a summit Tuesday in Brussels, hoping to build a durable pro-EU coalition.

In Italy, Matteo Salvini's right-wing League party won a third of the country's vote and is poised to become one of the biggest parties in the European Parliament with 28 seats in the 751-seat legislature. But his ambitions reached higher.

By midday, he had already spoken to Le Pen, Hungary's hardline anti-immigrant prime minister, Viktor Orban, and Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage and was promising to singlehandedly bring together a contradiction in terms—an international group of nationalists.

"We want to be a group that has at least 100 members and has the ambition to be at least 150, if everyone can overcome jealousies, sympathies, antipathies. To create an alternative, you play. You don't do it by turning up your nose," he said.

The center-right European People's Party and the center-left Socialists & Democrats have dominated the parliament with a combined majority since direct elections were first held in 1979. With results still coming in , the EPP was on track to secure 180 seats, down from 217 five years ago. The Socialists were slated to win 145, down from 187.

Riding what they called Europe's "green wave," environmentalist parties seeking action on climate change made strong gains, notably in Germany. Another mainstream formation, the free-market ALDE group backed by Macron, saw its stake in the Parliament rise to 109 seats, from 68 in 2014.

For the Parliament to choose a European Commission president and ultimately to pass legislation, new and uncomfortable alliances must be forged, and nearly all will require some combination of ALDE and the Greens.

Well aware of the far-right's potential to turn against itself, Macron launched a flurry of meetings ahead of the dinner summit Tuesday where the EU countries' presidents and prime ministers will take stock of the election results.

He started with Spain and was due to hold talks with the leaders of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

"The future majority of the European Parliament goes through us, without question. There isn't one without us," Pascal Canfin, one of the leading candidates from Macron's party, told France Inter radio.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ousted by parliament, Austria's Kurz vows to win job back

VIENNA (AP)—Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz was ousted by parliament in a no-confidence vote Monday, paving the way for a new election. The young leader, riding high in popular support, defiantly vowed that he and his center-right People's Party would return to power with increased strength. The vote capped a week of turmoil at the top in Austria that started when Kurz pulled the plug on his coalition with the far-right Freedom Party after a video emerged showing that party's leader appearing to be offering lucrative government contracts to a purported Russian investor. A new election is already planned for September and President Alexander Van der Bellen needs to appoint a caretaker government to serve until then. Less than three hours after losing his job, Kurz appeared before a cheering crowd outside party offices in Vienna, pledging that "the changes that we began two years ago will not end today." He said he looked forward to helping the interim government ensure stability in the coming months, and would fight to win back his position.

Spanish ex-monarch Juan Carlos I retires from public life

MADRID (AP)—Spain's former monarch, Juan Carlos I, says he wants to completely retire from public life on June 2, five years after abdicating the throne. The king emeritus said in a letter published Monday on the Spanish royals' website and addressed to his son, King Felipe VI, that "I think the moment has arrived to turn a page over in my life and complete my retirement from public life." Juan Carlos added that he began thinking about fully retiring when he turned 80 last year and was honored in the Spanish parliament. That event coincided with the anniversary of the country's 1978 constitution, which marked Spain's transition from dictatorship to democratic rule. Despite health problems, Juan Carlos had maintained a busy public agenda since stepping down.

New Ukrainian President Zelenskiy visits eastern war zone

MOSCOW (AP)—Ukraine's new president has visited military positions in the country's east, where the army has been fighting Russia-backed separatists for five years. Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who was inaugurated a week ago , went to two positions Monday in the Luhansk region, according to his office. At one forward position, he was within 400 meters (yards) of rebel positions, his office said. Zelenskiy spoke with Ukrainian soldiers about issues including their living conditions and food quality, his office said. More than 13,000 people have been killed in the fighting that broke out in 2014 after Russia annexed Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea. Zelenskiy, a TV comic who became famous for playing the Ukraine president in a sit-com, won in a landslide over former President Petro Poroshenko, backed by voters fed up with persistent corruption.

Focus

AP

Darrell Jackson, of The Bronx, N.Y., and his son Darrell Jackson Jr., are photographed in New York, Tuesday, April 30, 2019. The elder Jackson was abused by scoutmaster Freddie Modica after joining the Boy Scouts in 1972 at the age of 10. Despite receiving psychological counseling over the years, Jackson's marriage broke down. His childhood dreams of becoming an oceanographer long since faded, but he cobbled together a career in home remodeling and maintenance.

In emotional interviews, ex-Scouts open up about abuse

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Sharing their stories doesn't come easily for these middle-aged men. At times, their eyes well up or their voices crack as they describe being sexually abused in the Boy Scouts and suffering from emotional damage long afterward.

Looking back, they all remember vividly how excited they were to become Scouts.

"I was real gung-ho about getting my badges—fishing and campfires and all of that," said Darrell Jackson, now a 57-year-old New Yorker. "It was good at the beginning."

Jackson, whose unit leader was convicted of sodomy and imprisoned for about 18 months, is among hundreds of men across the U.S. who have recently contacted lawyers for help suing the Boy Scouts of America for sex abuse they say they suffered at the hands of scout leaders.

Many of the men are from New York, which this year adjusted its restrictive statute-of-limitations law. The changes allow victims of long-ago abuse to sue for damages during a one-year window starting in August. New Jersey enacted a similar law this month. California is on track to follow suit.

Some of the lawyers told The Associated Press they have evidence that the BSA was inaccurate when the organization said in recent press statements that it had never "knowingly allowed a perpetrator to work with youth."

The Boy Scouts acknowledge that sex-abuse litigation poses a financial threat and have not ruled out seeking bankruptcy protection.

Jackson joined a Cub Scout pack in Brooklyn in 1972 and the next year testified against his pack leader, Freddie Modica.

His initial fascination with the Boy Scouts was simple: He liked the uniforms. "It was like G.I. Joe dolls," he recalled.

He soon learned that some boys in the unit were making visits to the pack leader's home.

"They made it seem like it was a big thing—and I felt out of the loop," Jackson said. "When I got a chance to go, I was like 'OK.'"

The allure, Jackson recalled, was that the scoutmaster—while posing as a supportive father figure—let the boys engage in taboo pastimes such as smoking and drinking.

Jackson now refers to what ensued as "the ugliness"—repeated sexual molestation by the scoutmaster until Jackson summoned the nerve to tell his grandmother, who was raising him. Initially skeptical, she eventually went to police.

In the years after the trial, Jackson says, he was often mocked with anti-gay slurs. He responded at times with belligerence and mistrust.

"It caused me to go into crime, drugs, everything, just to block stuff out," he said. "It basically messed up my life."

Despite receiving psychological counseling over the years, his marriage broke down. His childhood dreams of becoming an oceanographer faded. He cobbled together a career in home remodeling and maintenance.

Why sue the Boy Scouts? He says the organization should be held accountable, and he wants children to be safe.

"I don't want nobody to go through what I went through," he said.

SCARS AND SHAME LASTED DECADES

Raymond Luna says he still has psychological scars from being abused as a scout in New York City in the 1970s.

"In my head, there's still anger," said Luna, 56, who now lives in Poughkeepsie, New York, and runs a fire-alarm installation company.

He recalls that the scoutmaster befriended many of the single moms—including his own—who had sons in the troop. Luna was among several boys who began visiting the scoutmaster's house. He says that's where the molestation took place.

He said he never reported the abuse to others.

"The shame was so big—like it was a secret," he said. "During my teenage years up to when I was 33, I totally blocked it out."

Even during a 26-year-marriage—which produced five children before ending in divorce—Luna says he never told his wife. He abused drugs and alcohol to keep the bad memories at bay and underwent years of therapy.

The counseling "helped me realize that I was a victim and not a participant," he said.

Luna says he's increasingly at peace. He has shared his full story with his current girlfriend. But he snapped to attention when he saw a TV ad seeking survivors of Boy Scout sex abuse to join in litigation. He and Jackson signed on with the same Seattle-based law firm.

After searching the internet for references to his former scoutmaster, he learned nothing about the man's whereabouts but found him listed in a database of the Boy Scouts' "ineligible volunteer" files, which list thousands of adults barred from scouting because of confirmed or suspected acts of molestation.

An expert hired by the Boy Scouts testified earlier this year that 7,819 suspected abusers were identified in the files, as well as 12,254 victims.

Luna's former scoutmaster was placed in the files in 1964 after an arrest for abusing a 12-year-old boy, yet he rejoined New York City's scouting ranks in the early 1970s. He remained a scoutmaster until 1975, roughly a year after Luna quit the organization in shame and anger, the paperwork showed.

"The BSA needs to know how much pain the abuse caused me and so many others," Luna said.

'IT WASN'T THEIR FAULT'

Jason Amala, one of Jackson's and Luna's lawyers, said scout officials failed to take reasonable steps to protect the boys from the foreseeable harm of being sexually abused by scout leaders. The claims will seek unspecified compensatory damages for pain and suffering and punitive damages based on an allegation that the BSA intentionally concealed their knowledge of the danger.

"We get people who call us virtually every day who still think it's their fault. And until the Scouts are fully transparent and accountable, you're going to have that problem," Amala said. "It wasn't their fault—not their parents' fault, not their moms' fault. It was the Boy Scouts' fault."

The BSA has repeatedly apologized and says it now has policies to curtail abuse, including making mandatory criminal background checks for all staff and volunteers and requiring two or more adult leaders to be present with youth at all times during scouting activities.

"We believe victims, we support them," said the BSA's chief executive, Mike Surbaugh. "We encourage them to come forward."

William Stevens, 50, came forward last year in Arkansas, filing a lawsuit alleging he was molested by his scoutmaster at least six times over a two-year period after joining the Scouts' Webelos program shortly before his 10th birthday in 1978.

The BSA's files show that the scoutmaster accused by Stevens, Samuel Otts, was caught sexually abusing a boy while a scoutmaster in Georgia in 1977. Yet Otts subsequently registered as a scout leader in Arkansas and remained active until 1980.

Rather than call police, the Scouts "allowed him to transfer and did nothing to warn the parents and scouts" in his new troop, said Peter Janci, one of Stevens' lawyers.

Last year, an Arkansas judge ruled against Stevens, saying his lawsuit was precluded by the state's statute of limitations. Janci hopes that ruling will be reconsidered if his legal team can prove the Boy Scouts made false claims about their abuse-prevention efforts.

The Boy Scouts say they report all suspected abusers in their database to law enforcement.

But Janci and his partner, Stephen Crew, say they have identified multiple cases in the Boy Scouts' database in which adult volunteers implicated in child abuse were allowed to return to scouting assignments on a probationary basis.

Asked about the lawyers' assertion, the BSA pointed to its current anti-abuse policies, but added, "We recognize, however, that there were moments in our organization's history when certain cases were not handled the way they would be addressed today."

Stevens went on to forge a successful life. He's married, has a daughter and is human resources director for a Little Rock-based trucking company.

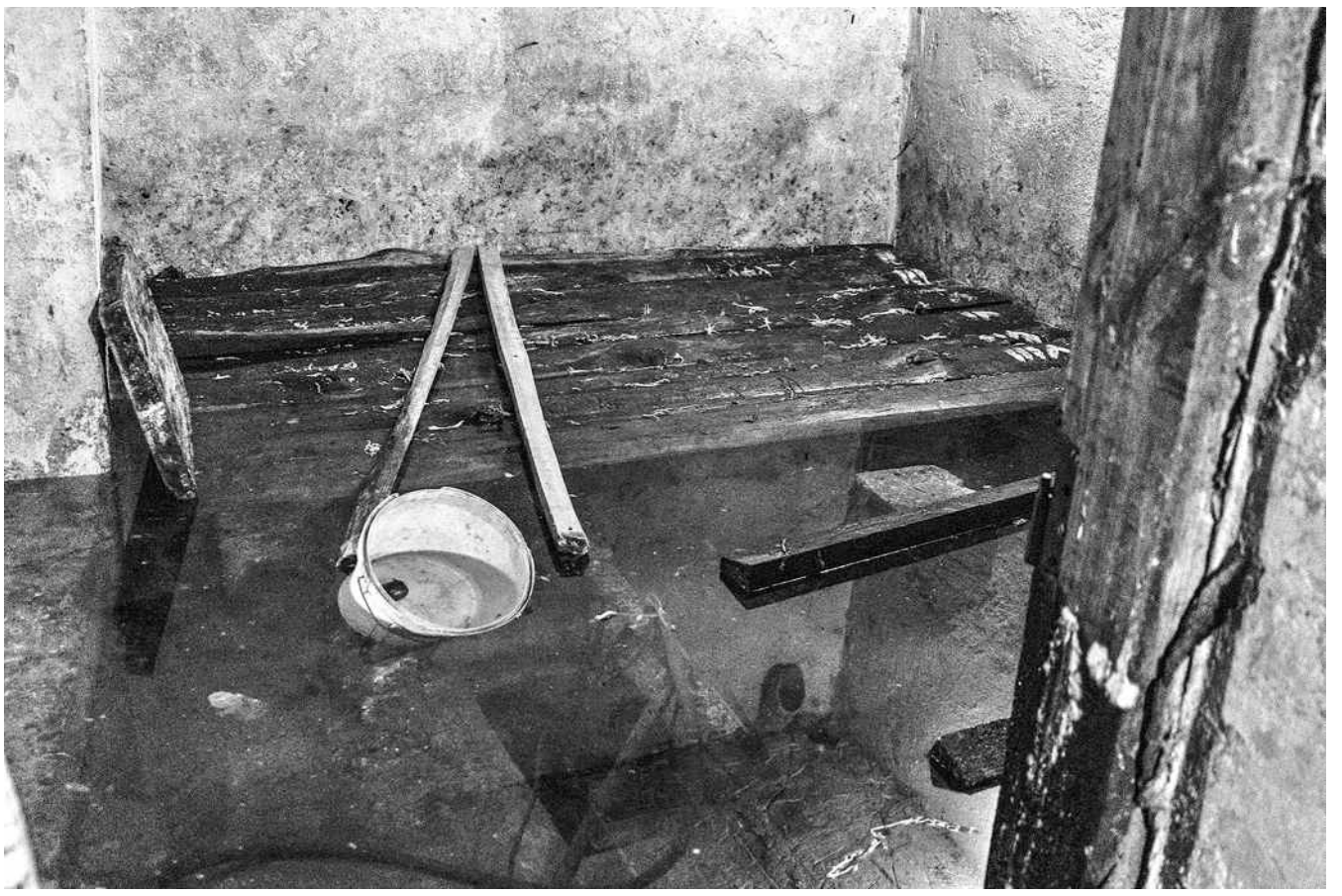
Yet his experience in the Scouts in Hot Springs, Arkansas, has haunted him.

"For the past 40 years, I've always felt like I was damaged goods," he said. "I've lived with the shame and embarrassment and guilt because of the abuse I suffered. I pushed people away and didn't let them get close to me."

Only in 2016, Stevens says, did he come across an online database that included the Boy Scouts' file about Otts and learn of the abuse that was documented in Georgia. Stevens reached out to Janci's Oregon-based law firm and decided to go public with his story, speaking occasionally to small groups in abuse-recovery programs.

"That was the most difficult thing I've done in my life," Stevens said, "but also the most rewarding."

Good Housekeeping



TNS

It's important to differentiate between basement flooding and basement seepage. Though we often call watery basements "flooded," in many cases homeowners are dealing with seepage. For insurance purposes, your basement is only truly flooded if it's caused by rising water from a storm or other heavy rains.

Have a flooded basement? You're not alone; here's what you need to know

By MATT RIEDL
THE WICHITA EAGLE

There's few things that will send homeowners into a panic quite like waking up to find an inch of water soaking everything in the basement or a new water stain forming on the ceiling.

Here are some questions and answers about storm-related flooding, and tips on how to protect against water damage at your property.

WHY IS MY BASEMENT FLOODING?

Some homeowners who previously thought they had dry basements have been surprised to find leaks after particularly stormy days these past couple of weeks.

Brenda Myers posted on Facebook that her house, which hasn't "had water in the basement since the '90s," is flooded.

How does that work?

First, it's important to differentiate between basement flooding and basement seepage.

Though we often call watery basements "flooded," in many cases homeowners are dealing with seepage.

For insurance purposes, your basement is only truly flooded if it's caused by rising water from a storm or other heavy rains. Homeowners affected by this likely live in a floodplain area (which you can check online at www.wichita.gov/PTW/Pages/Floods.aspx).

If you wake up to 4 inches of water in the basement it's also possible that a sewage line has backed up.

Seepage, however, is a fact of life for anybody with a basement.

Even the most waterproof basements may eventually succumb to seepage.

"There are two kinds of houses: those that leak, and those that will eventually leak," homeowner Patrick Greene wrote on Facebook.

Seepage occurs after a period of heavy rain—and water can seep in if the yard doesn't have proper drainage or simply if the ground around the house gets too rain-swollen.

Many homes are built on a water table, and those built on high water tables will inevitably deal with more basement flooding.

The water table refers to the level at which underground soil and gravel are completely saturated with water.

That level can rise after heavy rains and fall after an extended period of drought.

When the underground water table is at or above the level of your basement floor, you will likely see flooding as that water forces its way in through little cracks in the foundation, using what's called hydrostatic pressure.

If you're dealing with a high water table, there's not much you can do about that basement water until the underground water table falls again after a dry period. Sometimes, even if you suction it all up with a wet/dry vacuum, submersible pump, sump pump or other device, it may come back as long as the ground is saturated.

"Sometimes it's not an issue for 50 years, and all of a sudden the water table hits X, and you've got all kinds of problems," said Aaron Goucher, general manager at Olshan Foundation Repair.

In Wichita, Kan., "a big part of the city, especially the western part, is in the Arkansas River alluvial aquifer," said Dan Suchy, a geologist with the Kansas Geological Survey. That means that the water table is pretty close to the surface (10-30 feet underground) in those places.

However, Suchy said it's difficult to define exactly where the water table might be now because "all the ground is saturated with water that's seeping down from the surface."

"With this much rain, the ground is pretty much saturated everywhere," Suchy said. "We're getting lots of calls about basement leaks and that sort of thing. Sump pumps can't keep up with it. That's pretty common with this weather the way that it is."

WHAT DO I DO IF MY BASEMENT IS FLOODED?

The first thing to do is assess the damage. This is much easier to do with an unfinished basement.

How deep and how widespread is the water?

Is it nearing any electrical outlets?

If water is standing near an electrical outlet, you might want to call a professional to ensure you don't shock yourself wading into the water.

Ideally, you'll want to get the water out as soon as possible to prevent mold from growing in the basement.

Take anything that might have gotten wet to a well-ventilated, dry area if at all possible—then start getting rid of the water. If drywall paneling or carpeting got soaked, it's often just as expensive to try to dry them out as it is to replace.

For big jobs, you'll likely want to rent a submersible pump (which can be rented from stores like The Home Depot for $42/day).

Try to locate the lowest point in the basement floor (easier said than done) and suction the water from there.

For smaller jobs like seepage puddles, a wet/dry shop vacuum should do the trick, though you'll have to empty the vacuum frequently in a drain of some sort.

CAN I PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN?

You can, but it depends on how much money you're willing to spend.

If you can't fix your basement outright, the cheapest way to prevent damage is to invest in pallets and put all of your valuables on those pallets so they won't get wet when the basement floods.

This, of course, only works if you're dealing with an unfinished basement.

If you're looking to sell your house anytime in the near future (or are just looking for some basement peace of mind), you may want to invest in sealing that basement.

Goucher said "waterproofing is really a term that doesn't exist."

"There's water management from the exterior and interior, and the rest of it is just Band-Aids trying to prevent water from coming in," he said.

One of the first things to look at is installing a sump pump if you don't have one already.

Buying and installing a new sump pump can cost anywhere from $500-$1,500 or so (less if you are replacing an existing sump pump).

Beyond that, you'll want to do everything to keep water as far away from the foundation as possible—that's "the key to keeping guys like me away," said Goucher.

Make sure your gutters aren't overflowing or draining less than 5 feet away from the house, which can lead to potential water pooling adjacent to the home (which may eventually seep into your basement). To fix this, you can invest in a downspout extension—an inexpensive yet inelegant solution ($5-$10).

If you still have issues with basement flooding, you'll want to make sure the slope of your yard is adequately leading away from the house. The same goes for driveways, patios and any other sort of pavement that may have settled or cracked over time, letting water pool near the house.

There are various companies in Wichita that provide grading around a house's foundation, ensuring a positive grade away from the home.

In extreme cases, you can also install a French drain around the house—dug into a trench to redirect water away.

You can expect to pay anywhere from $1,000 to $3,000 for those grading/landscaping services, depending on the size of the job.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY ROOF IS LEAKING?

If water is actively dripping from the ceiling, contain it with a bucket or something similar and call a roofing specialist.

If you've just noticed a dark spot on the ceiling and it's not dripping (yet), you can try to diagnose and repair the problem yourself.

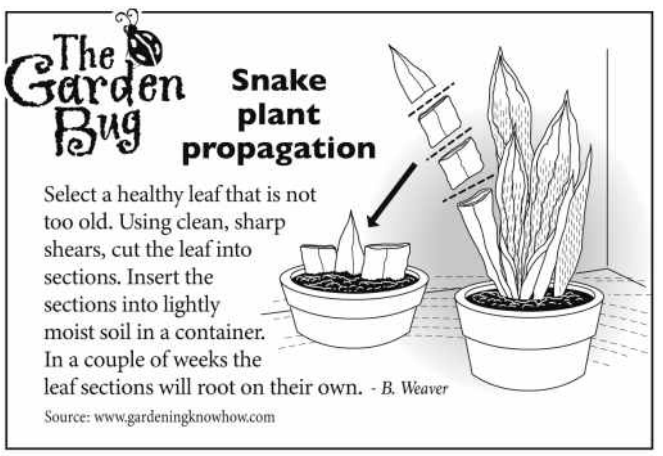
Locating the source of the leak is often the most challenging part.

If you can climb up into your attic, take a flashlight up there and look for where the roof might be leaking—you can tell by the water stains or if you see any mold growing.

If you're having trouble diagnosing where the leak is, you can ask a friend to climb up on the roof for you with a garden hose and run it around where you suspect the leak is coming from.

Once you find the leaky spot, you can either patch it up yourself or have a roofing professional come out and do so.

Or you can have a roofer do all of this work—because working on a wet (and often slippery) roof is a little more perilous than tackling a wet basement.


The Garden Bug
Snake plant propagation
Select a healthy leaf that is not too old. Using clean, sharp shears, cut the leaf into sections. Insert the sections into lightly moist soil in a container. In a couple of weeks the leaf sections will root on their own. - B. Weaver
Source: www.gardeningknowhow.com

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Life & Style

Britney Spears family seeks renewed order barring ex-friend

By ANDREW DALTON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles judge will consider whether to extend a temporary restraining order Tuesday that keeps a former associate of Britney Spears away from her and her family.

Sam Lutfi, 44, a onetime Spears confidante who has said he once acted as the pop star's manager, was ordered on May 8 to stay at least 200 yards (183 meters) from Spears, her parents and her two sons, and to refrain from contacting or disparaging them. The order could be extended on Tuesday afternoon. Spears, 37, is unlikely to appear.

Lutfi was a major presence in Spears' life at the height of her fame, leading up to her public meltdown in 2008.

Spears

The petition Spears' attorneys filed for the order alleged Lutfi had been sending harassing and threatening texts to Spears' family and disparaging them on social media.

Lutfi's attorney Marc Gans said the restraining order if overly broad and violates his client's civil rights. Gans said he and Lutfi looked forward to fighting the order at the hearing.

It's the second time the family has received a restraining order against Lutfi, who has been in legal battles with them for a decade. He sued them in 2009, alleging Britney Spears had breached a contract with him, her father punched him and her mother defamed him in a memoir. The suit was settled in 2016.

The petition for the latest restraining order alleged that Lutfi's "unjustified interference in her life" threatens Spears' "safety and well-being" and have caused her "severe mental trauma" at a time when stress and the poor health of her father have prompted her to put her career on hold indefinitely.

It also alleges that Lutfi has sought to undermine the conservatorship that for 11 years has kept her affairs almost entirely under the control of her father.

The status means a judge is unlikely to require Spears to appear at Tuesday's hearing.

Conservatorships, known in many states as guardianships, are normally reserved for people with conditions far more severe than Spears, including those with dementia or in a coma.

But judges have allowed the arrangement to remain in place far longer than was expected when it was first imposed at a moment of crisis for Spears.

There have been signs the arrangement may change.

Spears made a rare appearance earlier this month at a status hearing on the conservatorship in a Los Angeles courtroom, along with father Jamie and mother Lynne. The courtroom was cleared and only those involved know what the three said, but a judge subsequently ordered an examination of the circumstances by a court official.

Jamie Spears, who has reportedly been in poor health though no specifics have been made public, earlier this week notified the court that he is seeking to extend the conservatorship from California to Louisiana, Hawaii and Florida.

Rihanna feels the pressure as she makes fashion history

PARIS (AP)—Rihanna may have looked cool and collected next to the debut collection for her new fashion label, Fenty, donning a brilliant white tuxedo dress and a 1,000-watt smile. But on the inside it was another story.

"It's all a facade," said the Barbados-born star who has become the first black woman to launch a major Parisian fashion house.

"Pressure? Of course... I'm passionate about what I do, so there's pressure every single second. It's not like crumbling pressure, but it's like: 'You better get it good, girl.'"

News of the singer's groundbreaking deal with LVMH, the world's largest luxury group, shook up the fashion industry earlier this month. Rihanna is the first woman, and the first person of color, to create a major brand under the luxury giant from scratch. At age 31, that's no mean feat.

"This is a moment in history... It's a big deal for me and my entire generation," she said.

The collection is named after the singer-turned-designer's last name: She was born Robyn Rihanna Fenty. The ready-to-wear, footwear, accessories, and eyewear are available for sale in Paris' Le Marais area in a popup store from Friday and will debut online May 29.

Speaking in the store amid snapping cameras, she said she felt the time was right to make a move like this. It comes one year after LVMH's Louis Vuitton named its first ever African American designer for menswear, Virgil Abloh.

"Right now, fashion in general has been stepping up a lot and been vocal about issues—whether it's subtly or aggressively," she said.

While she said Fenty's ambitions are not "political," they're infused with the story of "me as an immigrant moving to America. That was a big journey for me. And to even get here to Paris—it's something to celebrate and embrace."

Rihanna poses as she unveils her first fashion designs for Fenty at a pop-up store in Paris, France, Wednesday, May 22, 2019. AP

The singer already has a track record for embracing diversity in the luxury industry after she featured some 40 shades of foundation in her hugely lucrative Fenty Beauty line in 2017. Many said that revolutionized the makeup industry and plugged a glaring gap in the market for women with diverse ethnic backgrounds.

That initiative was said to have caught the eye of Europe's most powerful luxury CEO, Bernard Arnault of LVMH.

But the launch—steered by an outsider with no formal design training—has also been greeted with a dose of cynicism.

Fenty is a recognition that the fashion industry now formally considers a major popstar to have as much to say in design as established figures such as Nicolas Ghesquiere of Louis Vuitton, or even the lauded Alber Elbaz, formerly of Lanvin. He is currently out of work.

Some say Fenty is the first major house of the Instagram age.

The Parisian fashion industry—dominated by white males—is famously snooty, and Rihanna will have a lot to prove.

At the launch, top designers in attendance such as Balmain's Olivier Rousteing and Dior's Maria Grazia Chiuri studiously picked through the clothes on display.

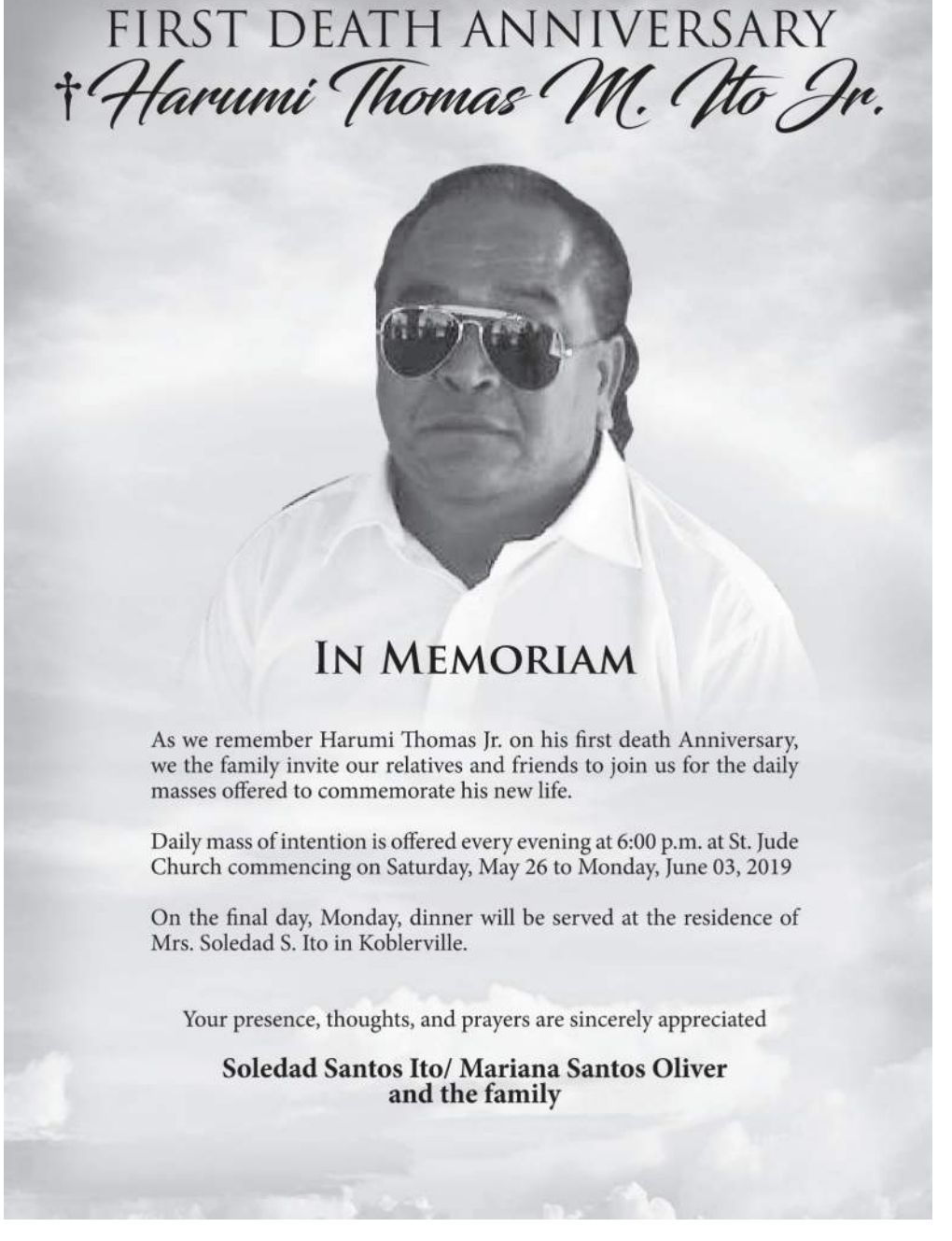
The wearable designs channeled an oversize, street aesthetic, with garments like cross-over jackets in thick cotton canvas or a button-down shirt dress in stiff Japanese denim.

"It's hardcore, but still chic. It's that juxtaposition that I really enjoy," Rihanna said, reeling out technical terms and fabric names she's recently discovered.

"Knowing me, of course you're going to have streetwear elements that are done in a luxury way," she added.

Fenty—not to be confused with the storied LVMH brand Fendi—says it will be based in Paris but will operate online with a "See-Now-Wear-Now" model, forgoing the usual luxury fashion seasonal previewed designs.

"They were flexible enough to allow me to have a different perspective on the way I wanted to release things," she said. "Coming from such a traditional background in fashion (as LVMH), you don't think there's another way that will work—but they allowed me to do that."


FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†Harumi Thomas M. Ito Jr.
IN MEMORIAM
As we remember Harumi Thomas Jr. on his first death Anniversary, we the family invite our relatives and friends to join us for the daily masses offered to commemorate his new life.
Daily mass of intention is offered every evening at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church commencing on Saturday, May 26 to Monday, June 03, 2019
On the final day, Monday, dinner will be served at the residence of Mrs. Soledad S. Ito in Koblerville.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are sincerely appreciated
Soledad Santos Ito/ Mariana Santos Oliver
and the family

Kim Kardashian West locks arms with prison reform warriors

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Brittany K. Barnett and MiAngel Cody are warrior attorneys with a mission: freeing drug offenders serving life in a federal system they're working to reform.

When it comes to the cause, their energy is boundless, Barnett through her Buried Alive Project and Cody as founder of The Decarceration Collective. And they're immensely grateful to Kim Kardashian West for joining the fight, catching some headlines in the process.

Barnett, who lives in Dallas, and Cody, based in Chicago, have spent years in the prison reform struggle, both after spending time in corporate law.

"At a basic level, I've always been interested in how courts and judges wrestle with human stories of the people standing in front of them, which drew me to contesting and attacking mandatory minimum sentences. Because when you have mandatory minimums, judges can't even consider their personal stories," Cody told The Associated Press.

It's that "erasure of the historiography of people" that keeps her going, said Cody, also lead counsel of her nonprofit collective of lawyers, community organizers and criminal justice policy experts.

The organization Barnett co-founded does similar work, representing individuals in court in pursuit of second chances, educating policymakers on the need for legislative reform and sharing stories to humanize those convicted to break the stigma of incarceration.

This May 14, 2019 photo released by The Decarceration Collective shows lead counsel MiAngel Cody, left, and attorney Brittany K. Barnett in Dallas, Texas. AP

Kardashian West, who is now studying law while running her beauty business and continuing on reality TV, first learned of Barnett's work when she stumbled on an interview with Alice Marie Johnson from prison and tracked down the Tennessee grandmother's legal team, which included Barnett.

President Trump commuted the mandatory life sentence given Johnson, a first-time offender convicted in a cocaine conspiracy case, after a visit to the White House by Kardashian West. After, Trump signed a bipartisan compromise on federal prison reforms late last year. That's when Barnett and Cody joined forces on a 90-day effort to free as many federal inmates as they could under the new rules.

The two secured releases for 17 offenders.

"It was literally a dare over text," Cody said of the idea. "It was like, hey girl, let's get some people out of prison. We were arguing motions in courtrooms that were completely unfamiliar to us. Kim knew we were doing this for free. We were probably halfway into the project, not paying ourselves, and with no money and no funding."

Barnett has known Kardashian West for nearly two years, since the star took up Johnson's cause. She offered to help fund the 90 Days of Freedom campaign when the usual big donors would not.

"It was like, OK, let's link arms. We need all the help we can get," Barnett told the AP. "She has always volunteered her resources. I've never asked Kim for a dime."

Barnett and Cody will launch a new initiative, the Third Strike Project, on June 19. It's aimed at offenders in their database left behind under last year's measure, the First Step Act, which retroactively made inmates convicted in crack cocaine cases eligible for consideration to receive reduced sentences.

"We have a client who's doing mandatory three strikes life for marijuana. The First Step Act didn't help him because it didn't cover marijuana," Cody said. "Maybe they had a high amount of a different kind of drug. Maybe it was cocaine powder and it was 5 kilos. We couldn't go back and retroactively ask the judge to lower their life sentence."

According to The Buried Alive Project , 3,834 people were sentenced to life in federal drug cases between 1988 and 2016. Of those, about 63 percent were black and 17 percent Hispanic. Overall, 46 percent were 46 years old and older.

Barnett and Cody have spent time fielding criticism among their own supporters online who are troubled by the attention Kardashian West has received.

"We tell our truth, and the truth is Kim linked arms with us when other people turned us down. We consider her a partner," Barnett said. "People are missing the bigger picture, which is that someone with the celebrity and platform Kim has is actually raising awareness for issues that many of us care about and many of us have been working on for a long time. We welcome anyone who wants to join this fight."

The fight, for her, is personal. Barnett's mother, who had a crack addiction, served three years. Barnett and her sister would shuttle several hours back and forth for prison visits.

Then, while she was in law school, Barnett came across the case of Sharanda Jones, who was sentenced in 1999 to mandatory life without parole for her role in a drug conspiracy, her first arrest and conviction. After nearly 17 years behind bars, Jones became one of seven inmates for whom Barnett secured clemency from President Barack Obama.

Jones is a co-founder of Buried Alive. She was also a close friend of Johnson in prison.

Cody founded The Decarceration Project after serving as a federal defender. She wrote one of the first clemency petitions granted by Obama, in 2013, for Reynolds Wintersmith Jr., who was 19 when arrested and later sentenced to mandatory life under sentencing guidelines of the time. He served 20 years.

"His mother had overdosed from drugs. He was sent to live with his grandmother, who was abusive and taught him how to sell and cook crack," Cody said. "It was an entire story of systemic failure."

She earned clemency in six more cases before Obama left office, and she praised those in Congress who supported First Step last year.

"Brittany and I say from the courtroom to Congress to clemency, we will show up and advocate for people who are serving life," Cody said. "We're talking about mass incarceration, human beings in cages for life. At the end of the day, I have nothing left for any other conversation."

A host of celebrities speak out on criminal justice reform

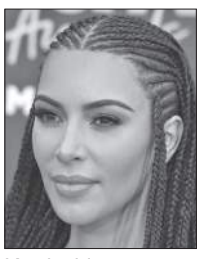
By MARCELA ISAZA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Kardashian West isn't the only celebrity speaking out for prison reform. It's a topic that was also very important to slain rapper Nipsey Hussle, and to Common, Kevin Hart and a host of others who consider the criminal justice system often unfair and dehumanizing.

Hussle served time before he was shot to death on March 31 and was raising awareness for changes. Last October, he headlined a free #TimeDone campaign concert to bring awareness to the 70 million Americans living with a past conviction.

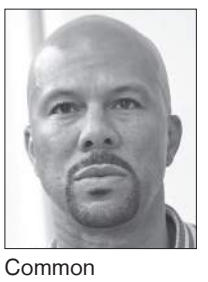
In February, while attending the Grammy Awards, Hussle explained why the topic of prison reform was among his priorities.

"I grew up in South Central Los Angeles. You know we come from gang culture so we dealt with the system a lot," he told The Associated Press. "We saw firsthand over-sentencing, unfair probation, the policies and stuff, so to see people putting energy into reforming that and just making it a little closer to what's fair, you know what I mean? I think that it's an important subject. It's an important movement that we should all support."

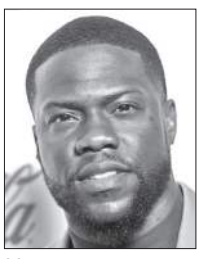


Kardashian

Hussle



Common



Hart

Hussle was on the advisory board of WordsUncaged, a nonprofit where prisoners serving life sentences learn to reclaim their voices and reflect upon the harm they have caused through narrative therapy and creative writing workshops.

Songwriter and record executive DJ Mustard, who is a Grammy winner and has collaborated with Hussle, has a cousin, Theodore, who is currently incarcerated. Mustard said prison reform is "super important" to him because often, people are "accused of something they didn't even do."

"They take the time for it not knowing, not having any lawyers, not even being in the right state of mind to even fight the case or even have enough money to get a lawyer to fight the case," he said.

His cousin was sentenced to 80 years to life as a teenager.

"At that time, we didn't have money to go for a good lawyer and now we're fighting and fighting and fighting to get him out. That's a lot of people's cases throughout the world," Mustard said.

Common, a Grammy, Oscar and Emmy winner, was touched in particular by the cause through his work on the 2014 film "Selma," the story of the 1965 voting rights marches in Alabama. The "Glory" rapper has performed at numerous concerts inside California prisons and is a frequent visitor to the men of one in Los Angeles County where all are serving life sentences.

"I think one of the things that I've experienced from meeting men and women who were incarcerated was that they wanted to feel humanized. They wanted people to know that they were human beings," Common said.

"The places that I've been, I've met some of the best human beings I've ever met in my life in prison that were doing life without parole that had actually committed violent crimes and had committed murders, but then were able to acknowledge that and try to move past it and do the work."

Hart also has spoken out about the need for criminal justice reform because of what has happened with his friend, rapper Meek Mill.

Mill has become a symbol for reform after a judge in Pennsylvania sentenced him to two to four years in prison for minor violations of his probation in a decade-old gun and drug possession case. He spent months in prison before a court ordered him released.

"He had to go back, and they put them in for this crazy amount of time. So, seeing that, going and visiting firsthand, we realize that there is a large portion of people that have been convicted that are set up to get convicted again regardless of their good behavior," Hart said.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative , a nonprofit that documents the effects of mass incarceration, the criminal justice system holds almost 2.3 million people in state and federal prisons, juvenile correctional facilities and local jails. More than 540,000 of those haven't been convicted.

The NAACP said that between 1980 and 2015, the number of people incarcerated in the United States increased from roughly 500,000 to over 2.3 million. African Americans and Hispanics comprised 56 percent in 2015.

"We just have to, in society," Common said, "not just look out for the people that can do for us but look out for those who are overlooked."

'Jeopardy' champ James Holzhauer nears Ken Jennings' record

LOS ANGELES (AP)— James Holzhauer's "Jeopardy" winning streak is still going and he may be on track to surpass Ken Jennings' record earnings in the next month.

Holzhauer on Monday won his 28th straight game with an additional $130,222 in winnings, the second highest single-day sum ever recorded on the show. The professional sports gambler from Las Vegas also holds the all-time record, which is $131,127.

Before his run, the previous episode record was $77,000 and was set by Roger Craig in 2010.

Holzhauer's total earnings are now at $2,195,557. That's $325,143 shy of Ken Jennings' $2,520,700, which he won in 74 episodes in 2004.

AP

In this May 2, 2019, file photo, "Jeopardy!" sensation James Holzhauer speaks after being presented with a key to the Las Vegas Strip in front of the Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign in Las Vegas.

Girlfriend competes for time with man still living with ex

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for two years. He is 10 years older, in his mid-40s. He is wonderful, kind, smart, and treats me well. There is only one issue: He still lives with his ex-girlfriend from 10 years ago.

She and I do not get along. She infringes on my time with him—has him run her errands, drive her around, etc. when I am at his (their) house. He also ends calls with me at night to talk with her, and his texts abruptly stop. Later I'll find out she was in his bedroom talking/venting to him about her current boyfriend or some other subject.

She recently put in an offer to buy a house that was accepted. After she moves out of the house they are renting, he plans to remain there and would like me to move in with him. Here's the catch: He says he will be going over to her (new) house to mow the lawn, rake leaves, take care of her car, etc. He says he runs these errands for her because she pays him. I have told him how much it bothers me. I feel he is placing her above me. Am I crazy for being upset over this?

SECOND BEST IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SECOND BEST: You're not crazy. Unless your boyfriend is hard up for money, it appears there may be more to his relationship with his ex-girlfriend than he has revealed to you. If he was disconnected from her emotionally—and possibly sexually—he wouldn't cut your conversations short or hide the fact that he is texting you. Unless he rearranges his priorities, you should not only not move in with him, you should find a boyfriend with whom YOU'RE No. 1.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Riley," and I got married three months ago. I'm a corporate pilot and have been for most of our two-year relationship. Now she's telling me if I don't quit my dream job, she will leave me.

I signed a year-long contract with this company, so it will cost me well over $10,000 to get out of it early. She hates my schedule, even though I work only about 11 days a month. Riley thinks I have to be home every night, even though I warned her that because of my career, I would be gone a lot of nights. She knew what she was getting into, yet she's trying to force me into giving up this dream job or lose her. Please help.

TORN IN THE SOUTH

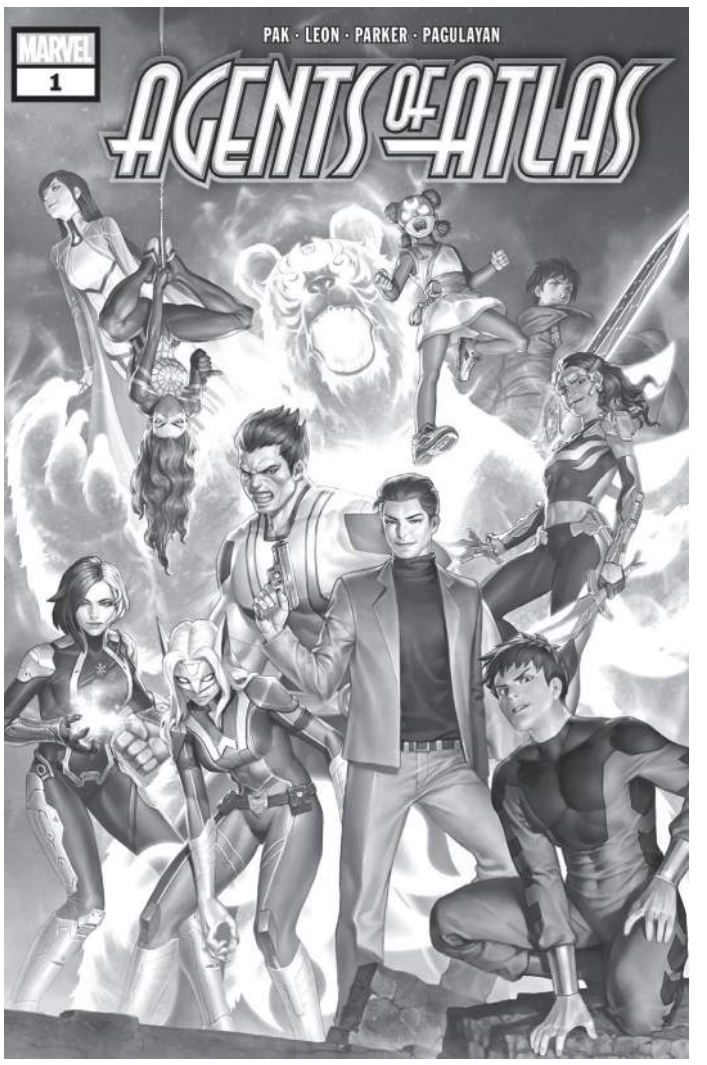
DEAR TORN: Riley knew you were a pilot when she married you. You explained to her what that meant. That she would threaten to leave you because she doesn't like the responsibilities your career carries with it is immature and controlling.

If she was serious when she made the ultimatum, I think you should take her up on it. And before you marry anyone else, be sure the woman is independent. Then have premarital counseling to ensure something like this doesn't happen again.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Asian, Asian American heroes to power Marvel comics series

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

This image provided by Marvel shows the cover of the first issue in "Agents of Atlas," Marvel Comics' five-part standalone comic book series set to roll out in August 2019.

Asian superheroes—assemble.

Marvel Comics is giving ink to an unprecedented team-up of its mightiest Asian and Asian American heroes, also known as the new Agents of Atlas. Established icons like martial arts master Shang-Chi and newbies like Wave, the newest Filipino superhero, will team up in a stand-alone, five-part comic book series starting this summer, the publishing giant told The Associated Press Thursday.

The roster of 10 superpowered pan-Asian champions made their debut as a team earlier this month in "The War of the Realms: New Agents of Atlas." That comic book is one piece of an ongoing saga involving several different groups across the Marvel universe, including the Avengers, doing battle with a fire goddess. But the exclusively Asian limited series is set to roll out in August.

The man leading the heroic charge is veteran comic book writer Greg Pak. Pak is credited with ushering in a new era of Asian characters in co-creating Amadeus Cho, a Korean-American genius teen. The character first appeared in 2005. A decade later, he absorbed the Hulk's powers and started going by Brawn.

"It's always been my dream to do a team book using a bunch of Asian and Asian American heroes," said Pak, who thinks there's more appetite for representation with the success of the movie "Crazy Rich Asians." ''There's literally never been a better time in my memory with more opportunities for doing work that specifically includes Asian and Asian American characters."

The decades-old character of Agent Jimmy Woo (portrayed by Randall Park in last year's "Ant-Man and the Wasp" movie) leads the pack as head of the revived secret protection society Atlas. Others getting in on the action include Brawn and Cindy Moon, who is the Korean American web-shooter Silk.

Other recruits have only previously been seen in Marvel video games or web comics only available in Asian countries. Among them is Korea-born Luna Snow a.k.a. Seol Hee, a K-pop star who can manipulate frozen elements. There's also Aero and Sword Master, the products of creatives in China. Besides crime-fighting, the group will spend time doing things like eating dim sum or singing karaoke.

"That kind of diversity within diversity is amazing," said Pak, who is half-Korean and half-white. "No one character here has to represent all Asianness or Asian American-ness. That's a ridiculous demand for any character."

The rest of the "Atlas" creative team includes writer Jeff Parker and artists Nico Leon and Carlo Pagulayan. In the series, the do-gooders find that someone has flipped a switch and created a "cross-Asian portal city" called Pan. In Pan, Asian neighborhoods get geographically scrambled and then stitched together into one city. So, the streets of Tokyo could be next to neighborhoods from Honolulu, Manila and some of Marvel's fictitious Asian countries.

Filipino American Loren Javier, 50, discusses Marvel comics on his "Castles, Capes & Clones" blog and podcast. There were few Asian characters in the lexicon he could look up to as a child, and many were often stereotypical mystics or man-servants.

"I love Marvel but I didn't necessarily see myself in the comics," said Javier, who recalls being teased by a classmate who called him "the enemy."

"Now, finally, I think about kids who are reading this new generation of comics and heroes and getting to see themselves a little bit more," Javier said. "It's very powerful."

Charlie Kirihara, who is half Japanese and half white, was thrilled by "New Agents of Atlas" and tweeted at Pak and Marvel pleading for more content.

Kirihara, 26, said it was a welcome change to see characters that represented Asian and American cultures in "The War of the Realms."

"I read through the book and realized that was the first time I've read a comic book that was all these Asian characters and that wasn't manga written in Japan," Kirihara said, referring to a genre of comics or graphic novels. "I want to see it have legs beyond this storyline."

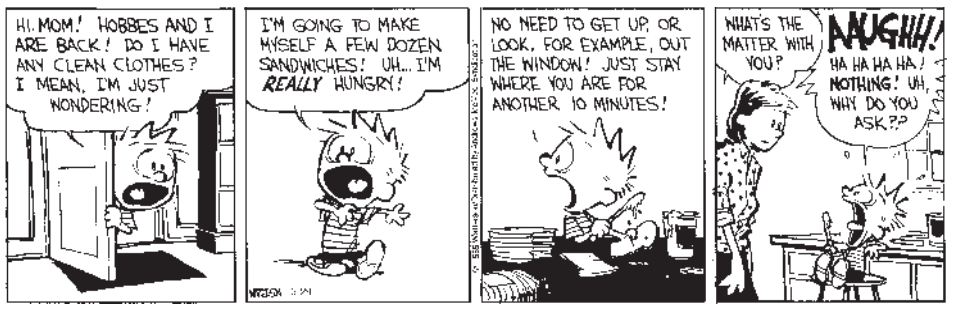
That's Pak's wish as well. But it depends on how Marvel finds the fan response.

"If people buy the heck out of it, I'm happy to keep writing them," Pak said.

Pastimes

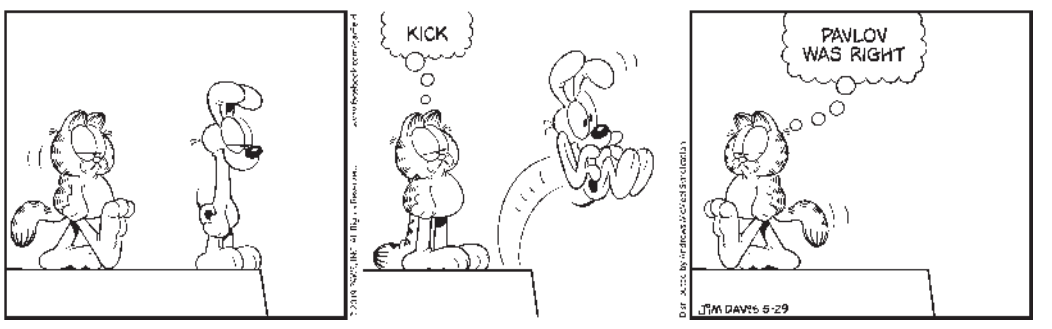
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM! HOBBES AND I ARE BACK! DO I HAVE ANY CLEAN CLOTHES? I MEAN, I'M JUST WONDERING!
I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF A FEW DOZEN SANDWICHES! UH... I'M REALLY HUNGRY!
NO NEED TO GET UP, OR LOOK, FOR EXAMPLE, OUT THE WINDOW! JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE FOR ANOTHER 10 MINUTES!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
AAUGHH!
HA HA HA HA! NOTHING! UH, WHY DO YOU ASK??

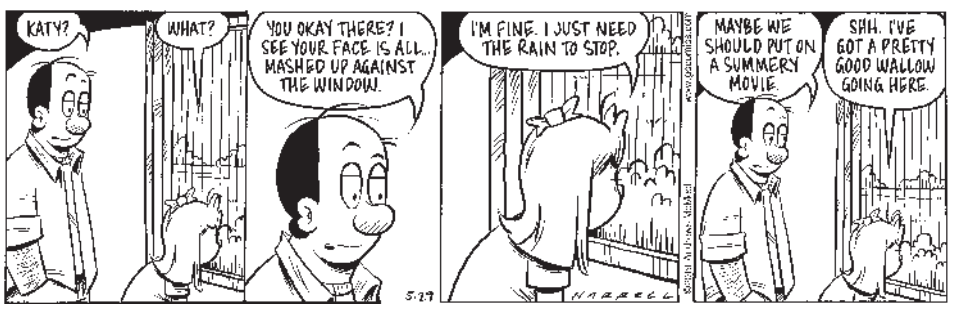
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



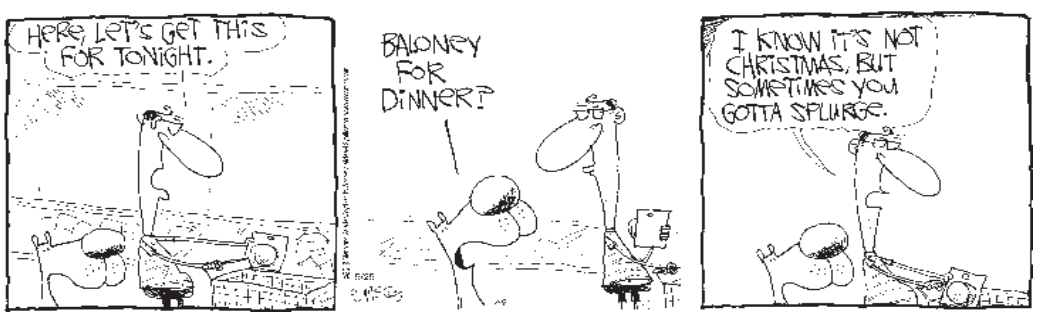
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY?
WHAT?
YOU OKAY THERE? I SEE YOUR FACE IS ALL... MASHED UP AGAINST THE WINDOW.
I'M FINE. I JUST NEED THE RAIN TO STOP.
MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT ON A SUMMERY MOVIE.
SHH. I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD WALLOW GOING HERE.
5-29
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cave flier
4 Beanies
8 Experts
12 Punk rock offshoot
13 Classic theaters
14 Global septet
15 Ages and ages
16 When bar drinks are discounted
18 First-rate, in slang
20 Perched
21 Apothecary measure
24 Of the Arctic
28 Annual celebration for a saint
32 Forbidden act
33 Freedom, for short
34 First half of an LP
36 Pol. party org.
37 Raw materials
39 Magazine founded in 1933
41 Costume
43 Admin. aide
44 Composer Rorem
46 Grammarian's concern
50 Freshman
55 Pen name
56 Garfield's pal
57 North Sea feeder
58 "This tastes awful!"
59 Engrossed
60 Conked out
61 Uncle (Sp.)

DOWN

1 Gridlock sound
2 Latin love
3 Singer Braxton
4 Companions
5 Oklahoma city
6 Zing
7 Easy targets
8 Actor Kutcher
9 Corp. boss
10 Vichy water
11 Old map letters
17 Chatter
19 Rx writers
22 Tennis score
23 Tyler Perry persona
25 Mine find
26 Diarist Frank
27 Boulder
28 Promote aggressively
29 Hibernia
30 Help a hood
31 Evergreen trees
35 Promised
38 Twilight time
40 Scale amts.
42 Favorite
45 Turned blue?
47 Border on
48 Leslie Caron role
49 Repeat
50 Supporting
51 Lupino of film
52 Wardrobe malfunction
53 Peyton's brother
54 Actor Vigoda

Solution time: 23 mins.

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E	L	M	E	R	■	O	A	T	S	■	■	■
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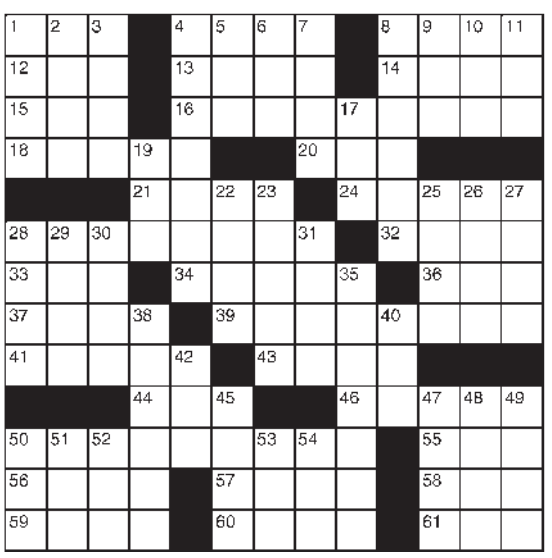
S	H	E	■	P	■	S	A	■	S	W	A	M

Yesterday's answer 5-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Riley Keough, 30; Mel B, 44; Rupert Everett, 60; Annette Bening, 61.

Happy Birthday: Take pride in what you do and how you use your skills, experience and knowledge to help others. Partnerships can lead to an opportunity as long as you strive for equality. How much you contribute should make you feel good about doing your part. Choose your affiliates carefully. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 26, 32, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Focus on what you want to achieve. Have a strategy in place, and follow it precisely to avoid interference. If you let someone meddle or take over, you will end up with something you don't want. Don't share secrets. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A personal adjustment is encouraged. How you deal with others and the way you portray who you are and what you want will make a difference to the outcome of a situation you face. Deal with your peers or siblings with compassion. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick to the truth. If you try to hype a plan or situation, someone will question you. Reveal your thoughts, and be willing to accept good advice. Working alongside someone who has complementary skills will help you excel. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take pride in what you do, the way you present yourself and how you treat others. Refuse to let an emotional incident cloud your day or stop you from being productive. Peace and love will bring better results than discord. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Finish what you start, and expand your interests to suit your needs. Walk away from controversy or situations that could end in a dispute. Consider what someone is going through before you retaliate. Look for the good in everyone and everything. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get moving. Your involvement in practices or events that you feel strongly about will motivate you to do more. Listen to what's being said, but when it comes to taking action, verify all facts before you proceed. Personal growth is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let what others do confuse you. Follow your heart, not someone who is likely to lead you astray. Expand your mind, and experience what life has to offer. Honest communication will enrich important relationships. Update your skills. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You can draw conclusions by watching how others act, what they say and how they respond when asked to do things. Distance yourself from anyone pressuring you to spend money or to get involved in something dubious. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* The changes you make at home will have a positive influence on your personal relationships. Share your feelings, express your intentions and make an effort to follow through with promises made. Question discrepancies and show compassion, not gullibility, when resolving issues. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Not everyone will be happy with the changes you want to make. Before you begin, discuss your plans with anyone who will be affected by what you do. Be willing to offer incentives or to compromise if necessary. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't take a physical risk or let yourself get worn out. Look for an intelligent way to move forward or reach your goal without applying physical pressure to yourself or a situation that is at a standstill. Rethink your strategy. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Focus on what you can do to help others or the physical changes you want to make that will improve your appearance, health or relationship with someone you love. Once you make a decision, don't hesitate to follow through. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are colorful, helpful and curious. You are talkative and adaptable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4			5		7		
2			6		1		4	
8							5	
	9		1	3	5	2		
			9		4			
			8		7			
	9	5				3	1	
7								8
	6	1	3	4	2	5	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	1	5	2	9	3	6	4
9	3	2	6	1	4	5	8	7
4	5	6	8	3	7	9	1	2
3	6	7	1	9	8	4	2	5
1	9	5	2	4	6	7	3	8
2	4	8	3	7	5	6	9	1
7	2	9	4	8	3	1	5	6
5	8	3	7	6	1	2	4	9
6	1	4	9	5	2	8	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MASADA, ISRAEL. **Solution:** 10 letters

P	A	R	K	S	I	H	S	S	U	R	Y	P	A	P
S	L	T	I	S	M	S	L	E	A	R	S	I	R	O
L	A	A	T	T	E	E	O	P	E	R	A	J	T	T
I	C	H	T	R	B	T	S	L	O	R	U	I	I	T
A	I	E	T	E	A	T	I	A	A	D	N	A	F	E
R	G	R	R	G	A	C	N	M	A	T	I	R	A	R
T	O	O	R	R	D	U	T	E	O	Ⓜ	E	A	C	Y
F	L	I	U	O	T	E	A	I	L	L	Ⓐ	D	T	K
A	O	S	I	G	L	N	A	S	O	U	O	Ⓡ	S	C
N	E	M	N	T	D	H	E	D	F	N	P	D	Ⓛ	O
C	A	U	S	E	G	C	A	C	S	F	S	O	L	R
I	H	A	S	I	W	E	I	V	S	E	I	A	O	O
E	C	E	H	D	S	N	A	K	E	A	A	L	R	M
N	R	A	C	E	L	B	A	C	S	N	I	O	C	A
T	A	L	E	G	E	I	S	L	A	R	U	M	S	N

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Ancient, Arad, Archaeological, Artifacts, Ascent, Attractions, Cable Car, Castle, Cause, Cliffs, Coins, Dead Sea, Dolomite, Ein, Fortress, Gedi, Gorge, Haven, Heroism, High, Isolated, Israel, Judaean Desert, Marl, Mesa, Murals, Opera, Opulent, Papyrus, Parks, Plateau, Pottery, Rebels, Rocky, Roman, Ruins, Scrolls, Siege, Snake, Trails, View

Yesterday's Answer: Hexagonal

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NBA Finals will decide a champion, and much more

OAKLAND (AP)—It all comes down to this.

No, really.

It all comes down to this.

The next four, five, six or seven games of the NBA Finals between Golden State and Toronto will not only decide the 2019 championship, but how this series plays out is inevitably going to affect how free agency unfolds starting in a month or so.

It'll affect Warriors star Kevin Durant and his annual stay-or-go decision. It'll affect Raptors star Kawhi Leonard as he ponders his next move, or if he'll be moving at all. Klay Thompson will be a free agent this summer. DeMarcus Cousins will be free this summer. Their thinking will inevitably be moved one way or another by this series; the decisions they'll all make in the coming weeks will have a ripple effect on the rest of the NBA.

Durant made clear over the weekend that he's tired of the incessant talk about his future.

"I know what I bring to the team," Durant said, "but I also know that a lot of people on the outside don't like to see us together."

New York will be paying intense attention to everything that gets said, tweeted, Instagrammed and intimated. Brooklyn will be in the same boat. So will the Los Angeles Clippers, who think they're on the cusp of building something really good, and the Los Angeles Lakers, who made the biggest signing of last summer by getting LeBron James and have done very little right since.

They will all be waiting to hear what Durant, Thompson, Leonard and Cousins decide.

And those are just the biggest fish—the whales, to use a term Miami President Pat Riley likes.

After that, there's an additional 60 or so players who could be free agents this summer—some have opt-ins and might not be relocating—and who are coming off seasons when they averaged at least 10 points per game. Their teams next season will be affected on some level by who gets whom in the draft. How some teams pick in the draft will be influenced by what they're hearing about free agency. And that hinges on this series.

Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green lays up a shot in front of Portland Trail Blazers' Meyers Leonard (11) during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals Thursday, May 16, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

So it's not just a ripple effect.

The finals may create a tsunami.

"The latest I've heard from our basketball operations group is that, I believe, 40% of our players are going to be free agents this summer," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said at All-Star weekend in February. "So it's two sides of the coin. Some people could say, 'Oh my God, look at all that player movement.' On the other hand, that player movement could be very positive for a lot of teams."

Maybe, maybe not.

If the Warriors win this series, as the oddsmakers in Las Vegas expect, it'll be a third consecutive championship for Golden State—and some history. The Celtics, Lakers and Bulls are the only franchises to win three or more in a row. And out of that group, only the Celtics have won four in a row (eight, actually). Michael Jordan never did. Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant never did.

That would be the obvious recruiting pitch the Warriors would make to Durant and Thompson: "Come back and try to win No. 4. Come back and try to do something that very few players have done and something no one has done in a half-century." That lure would undoubtedly be strong. But if they lose this series, it would seem much easier for either player to say it's been a great run and it's time to go play somewhere else.

If Durant stays, then the Knicks, Nets and Clippers would have to move on to Plan B for free agency.

Therefore, they probably should be rooting for the Raptors.

Durant is difficult to read because he uses social media to give cryptic hints that usually aren't hints at all. Leonard is impossible to read. For all anyone knows, he already has decided to stay in Toronto or sign elsewhere. Or maybe he hasn't even thought about the summer. Maybe he is as robotic as he tries to convey.

But the same theory applies: If Toronto wins this series, it'll be harder for Leonard to leave. So for the teams that want him, they might want to root for the Warriors.

Let's use the Knicks solely for example purposes. If they don't get Durant or Leonard, then maybe Kyrie Irving crosses them off his list. Maybe that would mean Kemba Walker climbs up their charts. Maybe that means Jordan decides to offer Walker the super-max of $221 million or so to stay in Charlotte.

Column: Lakers recruit Kidd to get Giannis

LOS ANGELES—Plenty of heads turned when the Los Angeles Lakers insisted that their new head coach hire Jason Kidd as an assistant. Although it was part of the reason why the team couldn't come to terms with Tyronn Lue to become their next head coach, their final choice, Frank Vogel, isn't worried.

Still, it brings up an interesting question: If the Lakers liked Kidd so much, why didn't they just hire him to be their head coach?

According to Newsday's Steve Popper, that might have a little something to do with Kidd's recruiting ability.

Although the idea seems very far-fetched, one source told Popper that he thought Kidd was brought to LA to attract his former player Giannis Antetokounmpo in two years, when the Bucks star hits unrestricted free agency.

There are plenty of reasons to doubt this bizarre rumor, but there's no doubting the Lakers are thinking through every decision on how it will impact their ability to pair LeBron James with another star. So far they've tried to land, among others, Anthony Davis, Kawhi Leonard and Jimmy Butler to no avail.

Yes, Kidd coached Antetokounmpo for three and a half seasons, but were they actually enjoyable? This almost seems like a company trying to recruit someone by telling them that their ex could be a co-worker.

Kidd inherited Antetokounmpo after he only averaged 6.8 points per game in his rookie season, and the Greek Freak nearly doubled his scoring in the following year. By Year 3 under Kidd, Antetokounmpo became an All-Star when he reached 22.9 points and 8.8 rebounds per game.

Still, his Milwaukee Bucks never finished better than 42-40 or made it out of the first round of the playoffs. It wasn't until Kidd was fired midway through the 2017-18 season and they hired Mike Budenholzer that the Bucks truly hit their stride.

Under Budenholzer, the Bucks have flourished with a league-best 60-22 record, and Antetokounmpo has blossomed into the MVP favorite. With more confidence than ever in his three-point shot, Antetokounmpo has become a complete player with career highs across the board: 27.7 points, 12.5 rebounds and 5.9 assists per game.

Kidd may have helped Antetokounmpo take off, but Budenholzer has allowed him to truly fulfill his potential.

The idea of hiring Kidd to land Antetokounmpo is even more wild considering the timeline, as assistants don't always last two years under a head coach. So much could change in the NBA landscape in that time.

The Bucks are two wins away from the NBA Finals and will certainly be in contention again next season. If they win a title and are able to re-sign Khris Middleton, would Antetokounmpo really want to leave? Fans and media have long thought that Kevin Durant wouldn't have joined the Golden State Warriors if he beat them in the 2016 Western Conference finals.

But even if Antetokounmpo does choose to leave the Bucks for greener pastures and brighter lights, the Lakers may not be the best landing spot for him. The Warriors have long been rumored to have interest in the All-Star forward and have a much more solid foundation.

Furthermore, as NBC Sports' Dan Feldman pointed out, Antetokounmpo has even explicitly said "I could never see myself being out there" in LA.

Shoot your shot, Lakers.

Machado booed, Yankees top Padres

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees fans drubbed Manny Machado with the same intensity Clint Frazier, Brett Gardner and Gary Sánchez pounded the baseball.

The $300 million infielder was greeted with loud boos and chants of "Over-rated!" on Monday in his first visit to New York since free agency. Machado went 1 for 4 with a too-little, too-late leadoff double in the ninth inning during the Yankees' 5-2 victory over the San Diego Padres, the eighth win in nine games for the AL East leaders.

"You're in New York. I get booed everywhere I go," Machado said. "Great players get booed."

Machado struck out, popped out and hit into a double-play grounder in his first three at-bats, pleasing the Bleacher Creatures. He wouldn't judge whether the salutation was louder than elsewhere.

"How can you compare? A boo's a boo," he said during a sometimes terse 3½-minute postgame media session.

A four-time All-Star with division rival Baltimore before he was dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers last summer, Machado was interested in playing for the Bronx Bombers after becoming a free agent last fall and dined with Yankees officials in December in hopes of becoming their third baseman. New York did not bite, and Machado signed a $300 million, 10-year contract with the Padres in late February.

New York's third basemen have 30 RBIs this year, four more than Machado. Yankees manager Aaron Boone thought the reception was predictable.

"More a tribute to what a good player Manny is," he said.

San Diego became the last opposing team to play at new Yankee Stadium, which opened in 2009, and quickly gained firsthand knowledge of its homer-friendly dimensions.

AP

San Diego Padres' Manny Machado (13) slides safely into second base against New York Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu, right, during the ninth inning of an baseball game, Monday, May 27, 2019, in New York.

Athletics 8, Angels 5

In Oakland, the Athletics rode three home runs and stellar relief pitching to a 10th consecutive victory over the visiting Los Angeles Angels.

Jurickson Profar rallied the A's from an early deficit with a two-run homer, Josh Phegley broke a tie with a solo shot, and Matt Chapman gave his bullpen some breathing room with another solo homer, allowing Oakland to win its fourth straight game to open its nine-game homestand.

Albert Pujols hit his ninth home run of the season for the Angels.

Oakland's Chris Bassitt (3-1) got the win despite giving up five runs and six hits in five-plus innings. He walked two and struck out three. Blake Treinen worked a one-hit ninth for his 11th save.

Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 3, 11 innings

In Denver, Raimel Tapia's single drove in Ian Desmond from second base in the bottom of the 11th inning, and Colorado beat Arizona.

Desmond hit a shot to the top of the fence in right for a double off Matt Andriese (3-3). A crew chief review confirmed the ball didn't go out. One pitch later, Tapia singled up the middle to score Desmond to win it.

It was the third walk-off win in the last four games for Colorado. Seunghwan Oh (2-1) pitched one inning for the win. David Dahl homered, and Nolan Arenado had two hits for the Rockies. Nick Ahmed went deep for the Diamondbacks.

Red Sox 12, Indians 5

In Boston, Sandy Leon belted a three-run homer to highlight a six-run fifth inning as the Red Sox posted a victory over Cleveland.

J.D. Martinez launched two solo homers, Jackie Bradley Jr. ripped two RBI doubles, and Mookie Betts joined Xander Bogaerts with two hits and two runs apiece as Boston recorded its sixth win in nine games.

A moment of silence was observed prior to the game to honor the memory of former Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner, who died after a battle with dementia on Monday.

Astros 6, Cubs 5

In Houston, Gerrit Cole notched his sixth double-digit strikeout start, and Houston turned a five-run third inning into an interleague victory over the Cubs.

Cole (5-5) matched his season high of 12 strikeouts while working six strong innings. He allowed three hits and one walk while surrendering two runs, both on a long home run by Anthony Rizzo with one out in the first inning.

The Astros tagged Cole Hamels (4-1) for six runs and seven hits over four innings. Yuli Gurriel had three hits, including an RBI single.

Mariners 6, Rangers 2

In Seattle, Daniel Vogelbach slugged a two-run homer into the upper deck to help the Mariners post a win over Texas and halt a six-game losing streak.

Vogelbach's 15th homer of the season was just the third in the ballpark's history to reach the upper deck in right field, and it helped Seattle earn just its 11th win in the past 41 games following a 13-2 start.

Mallex Smith had two hits, two runs and four stolen bases as the Mariners opened an 11-game homestand. Smith stole second, third and home in the eighth inning. Ronald Guzman homered for Texas, which has lost three straight after winning its previous five games.

Dodgers 9, Mets 5

In Los Angeles, Enrique Hernandez hit a tiebreaking three-run home run in a six-run sixth inning, and Clayton Kershaw remained unbeaten as the Dodgers defeated New York.

Kershaw (5-0) gave up three runs on 10 hits over six innings for the Dodgers, who have won all eight of his starts and 16 consecutive going back to August. Cody Bellinger hit his 19th home run of the season and made a highlight play on defense to snuff out the Mets' eighth-inning rally when he threw out Carlos Gomez at third base from deep right field.

J.D. Davis and Adeiny Hechavarria hit home runs for the Mets, who were coming off a 6-1 homestand but have now lost six consecutive road games.

Brewers 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Orlando Arcia hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning as Milwaukee rallied from an early four-run deficit to edge Minnesota

Milwaukee trailed 4-3 heading into the eighth when pinch hitter Hernan Perez led off with a double to the wall in left-center against reliever Taylor Rogers (1-1). Arcia followed with his sixth home run of the season. He finished 2-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs.

Corbin Burnes (1-3) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief, and Josh Hader tossed two scoreless innings to earn his 13th save. Byron Buxton hit a three-run homer for Minnesota, which had its season-best six-game winning streak snapped.

Pirates 8, Reds 5 Game 1 Reds 8, Pirates 1 Game 2

In Cincinnati, Bryan Reynolds hit a tiebreaking two-run triple in the eighth inning, and Starling Marte followed with a two-run homer to lift Pittsburgh to a win in the first game of a doubleheader.

Adam Frazier and Colin Moran had two hits each for the Pirates, Josh Bell also homered, and Melky Cabrera had two hits and scored two runs. Pittsburgh had lost three in a row and five of six.

Eugenio Suarez and Joey Votto had three hits each, and Nick Senzel and Jesse Winker also had two hits apiece for the Reds.

Jose Iglesias hit his first major league grand slam in a six-run first inning, and Cincinnati earned a split of the doubleheader.

Derek Dietrich and Yasiel Puig also homered for the Reds. Puig and Jesse Winker each had two hits. Cincinnati's Sonny Gray (2-4) allowed one run and five hits in six innings. He struck out seven and walked two.

Pittsburgh starter Mitch Keller (0-1) made his major league debut and faced 11 batters in the first inning, and he wound up charged with six runs on seven hits in four innings.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Yonny Chirinos pitched five hitless innings, Austin Meadows homered and had three RBIs, and Tampa Bay defeated Toronto. Chirinos (6-1) allowed two walks while striking out seven in five innings.

Toronto starter Aaron Sanchez (3-5) allowed one run, six hits and two walks in three innings before leaving with a fingernail problem. He struck out one.

Marlins 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Jose Urena pitched seven strong innings, and Miguel Rojas drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly as Miami rallied to win.

Marlins reliever Adam Conley got perhaps the biggest out of the game. He entered the game with two outs in the eighth and the bases loaded, and he got Juan Soto to fly out. Sergio Romo then pitched a scoreless ninth, thanks in part to a diving catch by Curtis Granderson, for his 10th save of the season.

Urena (3-6) beat Washington for the second time this year, allowing two runs, four hits and one walk.

Orioles 5, Tigers 3

In Baltimore, Renato Nunez hit a two-run homer, and Jonathan Villar added a solo shot that helped Baltimore to a victory over Detroit. Nunez has hit six homers in his past eight games and 13 this season.

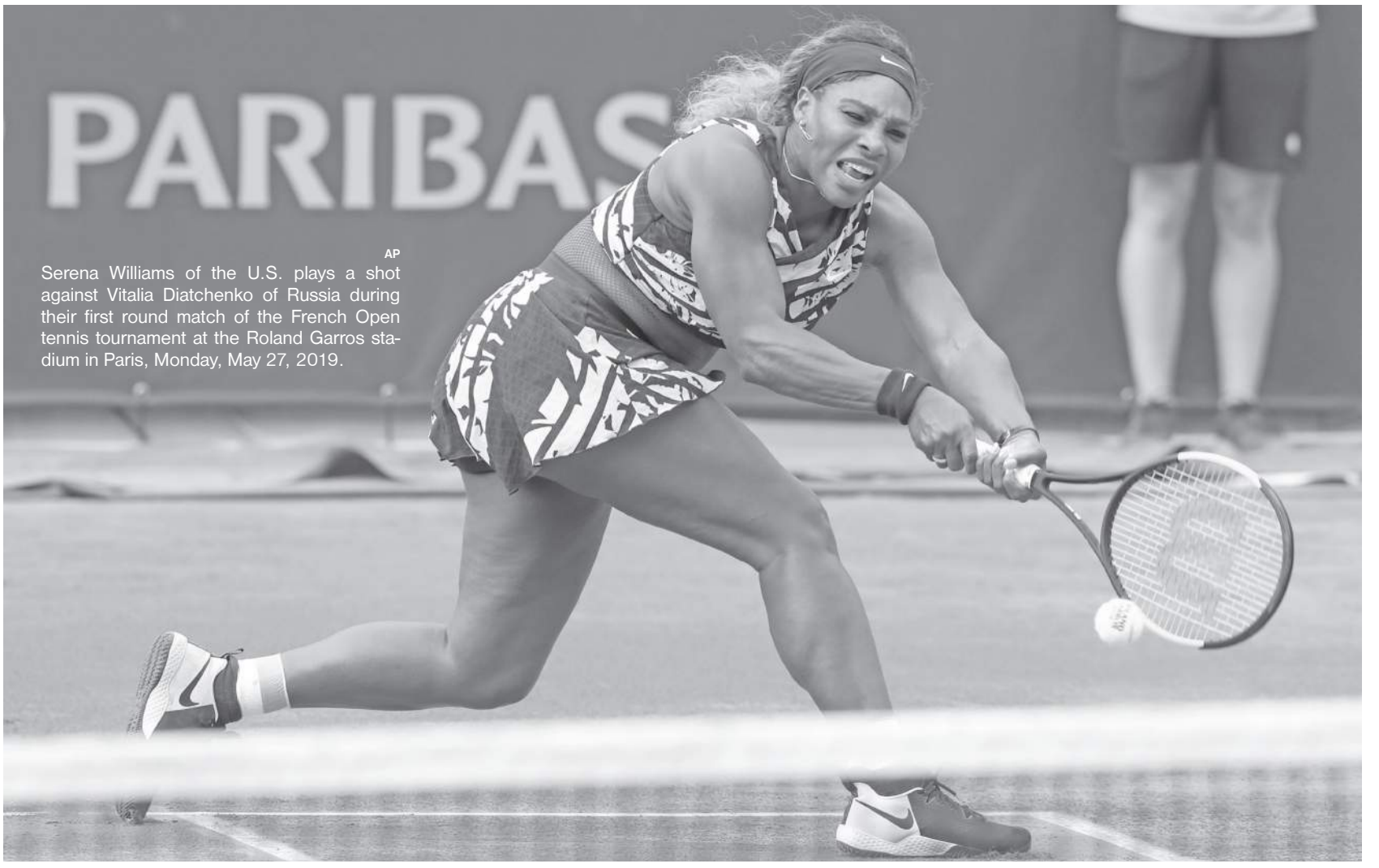
Dan Straily (2-4) came on in relief and gave the Orioles four strong innings. He allowed one run on three hits and picked up the win.

White Sox 1, Royals 1, Suspended

In Chicago, the game between the host and Kansas City was suspended with two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning due to inclement weather.

The contest, with the score tied 1-1, is set to resume at 5:40 p.m. EDT on Tuesday. The clubs will play their scheduled game 30 to 40 minutes after the

Serena storms back to win opener at French Open



AP
Serena Williams of the U.S. plays a shot against Vitalia Diatchenko of Russia during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, May 27, 2019.

PARIS (AP)—This was one mistake too far for Serena Williams.

Sure, the bad backhand put her behind only 15-30 at the outset of the second set of her opening match at Roland Garros on Monday. What made the miscue so bothersome? She'd already dropped the first set against 83rd-ranked Vitalia Diatchenko—and Williams' unforced error total already was at 15 on a windy evening.

So she reacted by throwing her head back and letting out a scream. Then she stepped to the baseline to serve and stomped her right foot. And simple as that, Williams righted herself: She won 11 of the next 13 points, and 12 of 13 games the rest of the way, to come back for a disappointing-to-dominant 2-6, 6-1, 6-0 victory at the French Open.

"I just was so frustrated at that point, because I have been training well. The past week and a half has been really good, and, God, it was, like, 'This isn't the Serena I have been practicing with—or that I see every day," Williams said afterward. "I just let out this roar, and here I am. Yeah, so maybe that helped."

She arrived on court with a black-and-white jacket bearing words such as "champion," "queen," "goddess" and "mother" in French.

"Those are things that mean a lot to me and reminders for me — and for everyone that wants to wear it," Williams explained. "Just remind everyone that they can be champions and are queens."

A reporter told Williams those four words are "a lot to carry," to which the 37-year-old American replied: "It is a lot to carry, but so is being Serena Williams."

She made her return to Grand Slam competition in Paris a year ago after missing five majors because of the birth of her first child. Williams pulled out before the fourth round because of an injured chest muscle, then was the runner-up at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Williams came to Paris this time having withdrawn from each of her past two tournaments because of a balky left knee, and the one before that because of illness. She had played only nine matches all season, and so her pursuit of a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title—fourth at Roland Garros—seemed no sure thing.

That goal seemed even further from her grasp with the way things began in Court Philippe Chatrier against Diatchenko, a Russian who hits two-fisted shots off both sides and upset Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon last year.

"I just got nervous out there and I stopped moving my feet. And (it) was, like, concrete blocks on my feet. I was like, 'You got to do something,'" Williams said. "I was just off, basically. And then instead of correcting it, I just kept getting worse."

Could the nearly impossible happen? Could Williams lose in the first round of a major? She'd only done so once before in 70 Slam appearances—and that happened at the French Open, in 2012.

But once Williams recalibrated everything, she took charge.

One of her good friends, and another former No. 1-ranked player, Caroline Wozniacki, went in the opposite direction Monday, going from playing a perfect set to quickly fading away against an opponent who never previously had won a Grand Slam match.

In a performance emblematic of a difficult season, last year's Australian Open champion bowed out in the first round 0-6, 6-3, 6-3 to 68th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova of Russia.

"Definitely wasn't the best match I've ever played," said the 13th-seeded Wozniacki, who had only 15 winners to Kudermetova's 40.

The way-up-then-way-down showing by Wozniacki stretched her losing streak to four matches.

Other seeded players exiting on Day 2 included No. 12 Daniil Medvedev, No. 15 Nikoloz Basilashvili, No. 20 Denis Shapovalov and No. 32 Frances Tiafoe on the men's side, along with No. 18 Julia Goerges on the women's.

Tiafoe, a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open in January, threw up a couple of times and his game came apart late in a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 loss to Filip Krajinovic of Serbia.

"Obviously very depleted and had nothing really in me," said Tiafoe, now 0-4 at Roland Garros.

Before Williams took over the main stadium, Rafael Nadal began his bid for a record 12th championship in Paris and Novak Djokovic got started on his quest for a fourth consecutive major trophy. Both won in straight sets.

When it was Williams' turn, she needed a bit to get going.

After 14 unforced errors in the first set alone, she had six in the second, four in the third. Her winner count went the other way: from five in the first set to nine in the second to 11 in the third. After dealing with five break points in the first set, Williams never faced another.

Diatchenko sat at changeovers with a towel covering her head, as if embarrassed to be seen there.

At the beginning of the match, Diatchenko said, "I was No. 1 between us."

But as things progressed, a better version of Williams emerged.

"With Serena, you have to play not 100%. You have to play 150," Diatchenko said. "Always."

CEO ponies up $75K at auction to caddie for Woods

NEVADA—It's good to be Tiger Woods these days.

The reigning Masters champion just rose to No. 5 in the Official World Golf Rankings for the first time since 2014. Woods also enters this week's Memorial Tournament after another successful hosting run at Tiger Jam in Las Vegas.

The annual fundraising weekend has generated roughly $21 million all-time for the TGR Foundation, Woods' charity that focuses on youth development and educational programs.

Highlights from this year's event included a concert from Janet Jackson at MGM's Park Theatre—with a personal introduction from Woods – and Russell Westbrook playing a few hands in the annual poker showdown.

It's basically a first-class fantasy camp for guests, many of whom ponied up at the event's charity auction.

The big-ticket item? The chance to caddie for Woods for a day during the Hero World Challenge pro-am in the Bahamas. Last year, we followed along with Jim Williams, who dutifully trekked all 18 holes after bidding $50,000 at Tiger Jam in 2018.

This year's caddie-for-a-day package was in even greater demand coming off Woods' Masters victory. National Funding founder and CEO Dave Gilbert placed the winning bid at a whopping $75,000, according to Woods' spokesman, securing his place on the bag come December.

Regular caddie Joe LaCava was glad to hand the bag over last year and take on a lighter work load, though he was there the whole way to give tips and crack jokes with the new looper.

LaCava will be assuming regular duties this week at Muirfield Village, where Woods is a five-time champion. That'll be the last start prior to the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, as Woods looks to continue to rise in the world rankings from his best position in five years.

Meanwhile, Woods is heading to Dublin, Ohio, in a few days for the Memorial Tournament, but first things first.

Time for some U.S. Open prep at Pebble Beach.

Instagram user @_krebs831 posted video of Woods walking the grounds Thursday on what looks like a cold, rainy morning on the Monterey Peninsula. The video shows Woods, bundled up in a black sweatshirt, on the course with girlfriend Erica Herman and longtime friend/TGR vice president Rob McNamara.

Woods hasn't played a competitive round at Pebble Beach since finishing tied for 15th at the 2012 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. He scored perhaps his most dominant career victory there at the 2000 U.S. Open, winning by a record-setting 15 strokes, and is set to return for this year's U.S. Open June 13-16.

Woods is coming off a missed cut in the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black, his first event back since his Masters victory in April. He committed to the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village earlier this week for what will almost certainly be his only start before the U.S. Open.

The extended break leading up to the PGA Championship was mostly due to the emotionally and physically draining victory at Augusta, and Woods planned to play fewer tournaments this year regardless. Now it looks like he's back to his normal practice routine ahead of the U.S. Open after a down week at Bethpage.

"There's no reason why I can't get up to speed again and crank it back up," Woods said last week. "I've got to start feeling a little better before that happens. We'll do that first and then start cranking it back up again."

The hype that followed his emotional Masters victory fell flat in the shadow of New York City.

"Just didn't quite have it," Woods said after missing the cut. "It's just the way it goes. Made too many mistakes and just didn't do the little things I need to do. You know, I had a couple three-putts. I didn't hit wedges close. I didn't hit any fairways today. Did a lot of little things wrong."

Neymar loses Brazil captaincy to Alves for Copa

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Brazilian star Neymar lost his national team's captaincy for the Copa America to veteran Dani Alves, in another move suggesting the striker will be under heavy pressure to deliver the title of the South American tournament on home soil.

Brazil's football confederation, CBF, said in a statement on Monday that 36-year-old defender Alves, a close friend of Neymar's who plays with him at Paris Saint-Germain, will start wearing the armband in the friendly against Qatar on June 5 in Brasilia.

The Copa America will be played between June 14 and July 7, and Brazil's first match will be against Bolivia in Sao Paulo on opening day.

CBF also said Brazil coach Tite informed Neymar of his decision on Saturday, the day the Paris Saint-Germain striker arrived at the national team's training ground outside Rio de Janeiro. The soccer body also said Alves will only join the group on Tuesday, but was informed on Sunday of his new status.

Tite, Neymar and Dani Alves have not talked about the decision yet.

AP

Brazil's Neymar controls the ball during practice at the Granja Comary training center ahead of the Copa America soccer tournament in Teresopolis, Brazil, Sunday, May 26, 2019.

The 27-year-old Neymar was his national team's captain since the elimination in the World Cup quarterfinals against Belgium in 2018. Brazil's coach said then he wanted to give more responsibilities to the striker, who is under criticism from Brazil fans since his unconvincing performances in Russia.

Tite's decision comes after Neymar's altercation with a fan at the French Cup final on April 27. The striker apologized for the altercation after PSG lost on penalties to Rennes, but that was not enough to keep the armband. Brazil's coach has been under pressure since to take away the captaincy from Neymar.

New captain Alves won Copa America in 2007, and scored a goal in the 3-0 victory against Argentina in the final. He has the highest number of caps on Brazil with 138.

The right-back was expected to be Brazil's captain during the World Cup in Russia, but he suffered a left knee injury that didn't allow him to play.

Brazil's preparations for Copa America were halted on Monday, with players resuming training Tuesday afternoon.

Brazil is in Group A with Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru.

Soto leads US over Nigeria 2-0 at Under-20 World Cup

POLAND (AP)— Sebastian Soto scored a pair of goals, and the United States beat Nigeria 2-0 Monday in the Under-20 World Cup at Bielsko Biala to rebound from an opening loss to Ukraine.

Soto headed in Alex Mendez's corner kick from 5 yards in the 18th minute, getting free from defender Zulkifilu Rabiu, then doubled the lead 25 seconds into the second half. Left back Chris Gloster, a teammate in Hannover's youth system, dribbled toward the goal from midfield and passed as Soto burst past defender Valentine Ozornwafor and into the penalty area. Soto ran onto the ball and slotted it past goalkeeper Olawale Oremade with the outside of his right foot from 6 yards.

Soto kicked the ball in off a scramble after Tim Weah's initial header was saved in the 30th minute, but a video review determined Weah was offside on the header. Soto, an 18-year-old forward from Carlsbad, California, left Real Salt Lake's youth academy for Hannover last summer and made his Bundesliga debut on April 6 in the first of three substitute appearances near the end of the season.

Brady Scott had five saves in the shutout, diving to his right in the 39th minute to parry a volley by Aniekeme Okon.

Ukraine (2-0) leads Group D with six points after following its opening 2-1 win over the U.S. with a 1-0 victory over Qatar on Monday.

Nigeria (1-1), which defeated Qatar 4-0 in its opener, is ahead of the U.S. on goal difference. The Americans play Qatar on Thursday, when Nigeria meets Ukraine.

The top two nations in each of six groups advance along with the top four third-place teams.

U.S. coach Tab Ramos made one lineup change, starting Soto in place of Brandon Servania. Soto had replaced Servania in the 66th minute of the opener.

Nigeria was awarded a penalty kick by French referee Benoit Bastien in the 64th minute when Mark McKenzie knocked over Michael from behind, but a video review determined Okechukwu Offia was offside when Rabiu passed to Michael.

BRAVES

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Fabio Norita pitched the Braves to victory, as he gave up no earned run and recorded seven strikeouts. He started his shift with a 1-3 putout play on Twins leadoff batter Brandon Tesiro and then fanned Devin Yumul. The Twins were later called for the three quick outs when Miah Yokota flied out at left field.

While the Twins struggled at the start of the game, the Braves played better and got three runs at the bottom of the first inning. Krafits Eliarsai had a two-run double in the first inning, while Kallan Seidler reached off a passed ball.

In the second inning, the Braves' lead was trimmed down to one after leadoff batter Ethan Yumul put the Twins on the board, as he made it home off a passed ball and Fernando Robert also scored from their opponent's error. Norita struck out the Twins' next three batters to keep the Braves in front despite failing to score at the bottom of the second.

Norita also had a big defensive stop at the top of the third inning, as he struck out Animu Ottiwii with the bases loaded and after the Twins got two more runs. Then at the top of the fourth inning, Norita fanned leadoff batter Jon Pinaula and picked up the ball and threw to first baseman Erik Camacho for the two quick outs, as the latter tagged out Chuck Langu. A 6-3 putout play on Danilo Bernardo ended the inning for the Twins, who are still winless with the regular season about to conclude.

The Braves, with the victory, got win No. 2, but are out of the playoff contention along with the Twins.

SONG

From Page 28

did not prevent Schorr and Song from blanking Fiji. They returned to the court to play in the doubles and dominated Shail and Avikash Kumar, 6-1, 6-1.

With their 3-0 record yesterday, Schorr and Song gave the CNMI the early lead in Group C, which also has Samoa and Kiribati. The Commonwealth bets are ahead of Samoa, which eked out a 2-1 triumph over Kiribati yesterday.

Kristen Pavit downed Bauro Lambourne, 6-3, 6-0, and Marvin So'Onalole topped Tito Bira, 6-2, 6-2, to hand Samoa the outright victory in the pairing. Kiribati averted a Samoa sweep after Bira and Kourabi Banjamin outclassed Pavit and Philip Warren in the lone doubles game, 6-1, 7-5.

Samoa and the CNMI would not cross paths until tomorrow, while the latter will play its second game today against Kiribati. The singles pairings have yet to be posted on the tournament website, but another victory will move Schorr and Song to the playoff round of the 14-team field. Only the Top 2 teams from the four groups will advance to the playoffs after the pool play.

In Group A, Tuvalu crushed the Federated States of Micronesia. Laumalo Lalau and Maka Ofati won over Midion and Dion Neth, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, and 6-0, 6-2, respectively. The Tuvalu pair completed the sweep against the Neths with a 6-3, 6-2 triumph in the doubles game. Tahiti is also in the pool and will take on FSM today.

In Group B, American Samoa prevailed in the opener against Vanuatu, 2-1. Jumma Luceno and Larry Magalasan handed American Samoa the deciding win after they thwarted Noah Molbaleh and Zachary Sands, 6-3, 6-3. Magalasan also downed Sands in the second singles game, 6-3, 6-2, to keep American Samoa in contention. Molbaleh earlier slipped past Luceno, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, to put Vanuatu on top. Vanuatu will try to recover from the opening day loss when it faces the Cook Islands this morning.

In Group D, the Norfolk Island coasted past Nauru, 3-0, while Fiji Men routed the Solomon Islands in similar scores. Sam Cribb and Arki Nobbs handed the Norfolk Islands the sweep versus Nauru's Robert Bubert and Dallas Addi. Fiji, on the other hand, leaned on Sebastian Tikaram, William O'Connell, and Raynai Singh to wallop Junior Miki and Bobbie Leong.

MHS 1

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Southern (2-7), as the Manta Rays tallied a 25-22 win in their duel last Saturday.

Meanwhile, Kagman High School is seeded No. 2 in the double-elimination playoffs and is followed by Tinian 1, Tinian 2, Rota, MHS 2, Saipan Southern, and MHS 3.

The Ayuyus wrapped up the preliminary round with a 7-2 card, getting four victories and dropping two matches last Saturday. Kagman won over Tinian 2, 26-24; MHS 3, 25-6; Saipan Southern, 28-26; and MHS 2, 25-18. Besides bowing to MHS 1, the Ayuyus also fell to Tinian 1, 15-25.

Tinian 1 and 2 played only in last Saturday's matches and gained the No. 3 and 4 seeds, respectively, after posting 4-1 and 3-2 records. Tinian notched its first victory versus MHS 2, 25-12, and followed it up with a 25-18 triumph over Saipan Southern, and MHS 3, 25-20, and Kagman. Tinian 2 nosed out Tinian 1, 25-13, and also defeated MHS 3, 25-17, Saipan Southern 25-23.

Rota missed the prelims and automatically took the No. 5 seed, while MHS 2 is ranked No. 6 with its 3-6 mark.

MHS 2 is paired against Tinian 1 in the first round of the playoffs with the winner taking on the victor of the match between Kagman and Saipan Southern. Tinian 2, on the other hand, will square off against Rota and the winner will challenge either MHS 1 or MHS 3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas High School 3 player serves to MHS 2 during their preliminary game in the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament at the MHS Gymnasium.

NBA Finals will decide a champion, and much more

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Song, Schorr sweep foes

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ken Song, seen here competing in a local tournament, teamed up with Robbie Schorr in powering the CNMI to a 3-0 win over the Fiji Development Team yesterday in the Pacific Nations Cup 2019 at the ITF Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Ken Song had a rousing start in the Pacific Nations Cup 2019 after shutting down the Fiji Development Team, 3-0, yesterday at the ITF Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Song kicked off the Commonwealth's bid in the team event and he eased past Shantanu Shail in their singles match in Group C, 6-1, 6-1. Schorr also took only two sets to down Storm Cornish, 6-1, 6-2, in the other singles game.

The singles sweep assured the CNMI pair the early victory in the pool play, but that

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MHS 1 gets top seeding

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School 1, right, and Saipan Southern High School players battle in the net during their preliminary game in the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament at the MHS Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School 1 earned a perfect record in the preliminary round to bag the top seeding in the playoffs for the 2018-2019 Public School System Boys High School Volleyball Tournament.

The Dolphins notched five more victories last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium to finish the prelims with a 9-0 record. MHS 1, which went 4-0 in the May 17 pool play, started the second round of the prelims with a 25-15 win over Tinian Junior Senior High School 2. The Dolphins also registered a victory over Tinian 1 in similar scores before outclassing Kagman, 25-18, to extend their streak.

MHS 1, which has Jerico Castro, Logan Mister, Andrei Manalo, Tychicus Xu, Nilo Calimag, Bailey Spaeth, Alan Hinson, Andy Kim, and Archival Velasco in its roster, went on to complete the sweep after dominating MHS 3, 25-11, and Saipan Southern High School, 25-14.

With its undefeated record and top seeding, MHS 1 will kick off its playoff campaign this Saturday against last finisher MHS 3. MHS 3, which had a 1-3 record in the May 17 matches, also got only one victory last Saturday to end up with a 2-7 record. MHS 3's lone triumph last weekend was posted against MHS 2, 25-22, and the former lost the tiebreak for the No. 7 spot with Saipan

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Braves pounce on Twins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Braves hammered the Twins, 15-4, in the Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Braves got the victory after only four innings, as they collected eight runs at the bottom of the fourth to wrap up the game early via 10-run mercy rule.

Eric Camacho helped deliver the killer blows for the Braves with his two-run double in the fourth inning. He also reached home off Marino Santos's double, while the Braves capitalized on the Twins' erratic defense to get four runs off errors and one from a passed ball.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Braves player is commended by his coach after making it safely to first base during their game against the Falcons in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Monday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.